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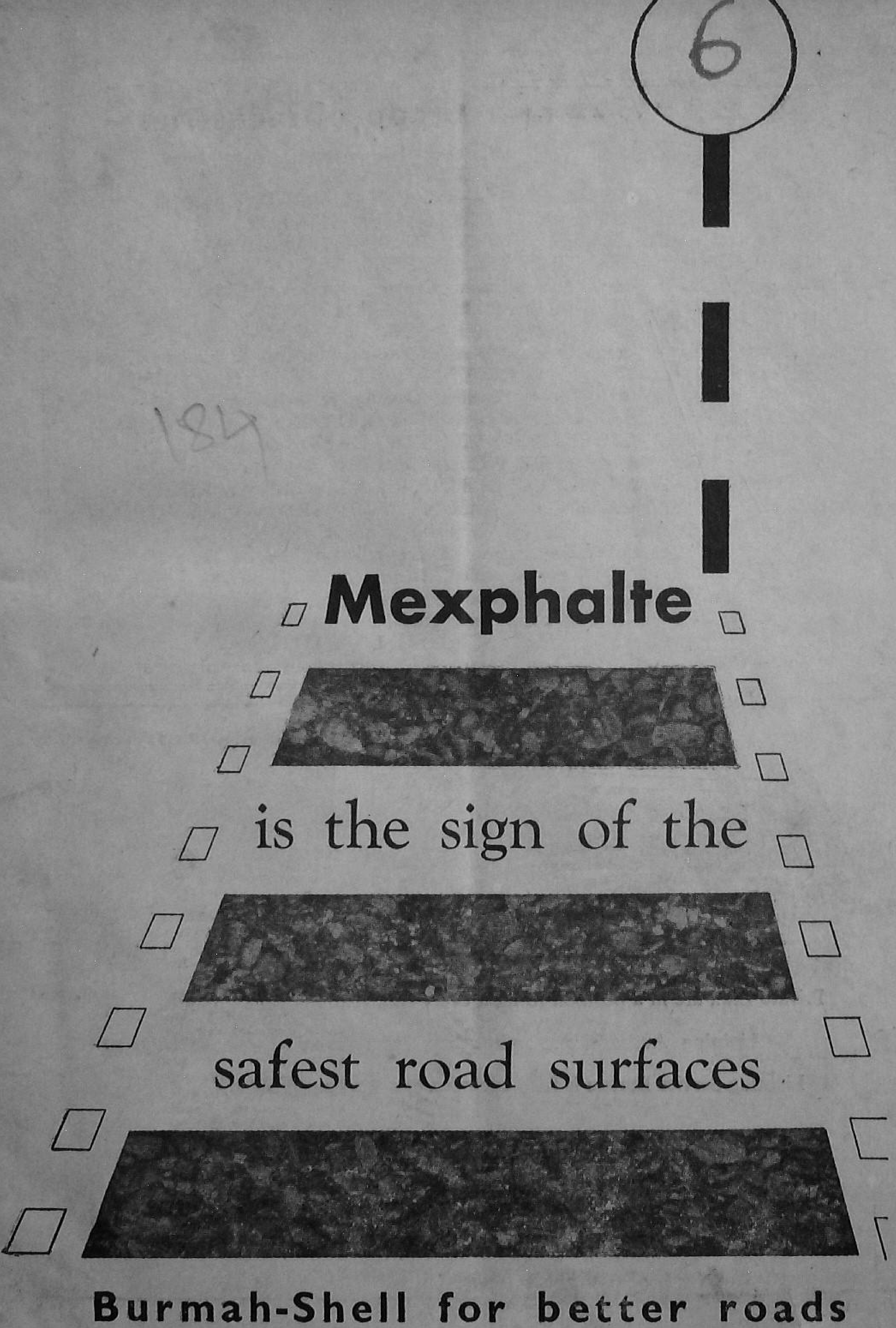
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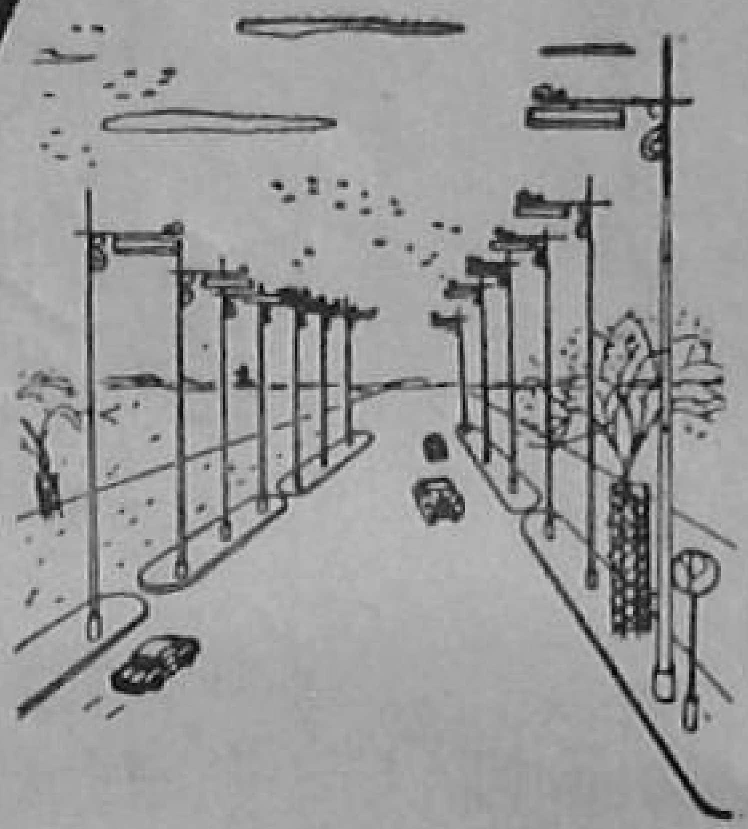

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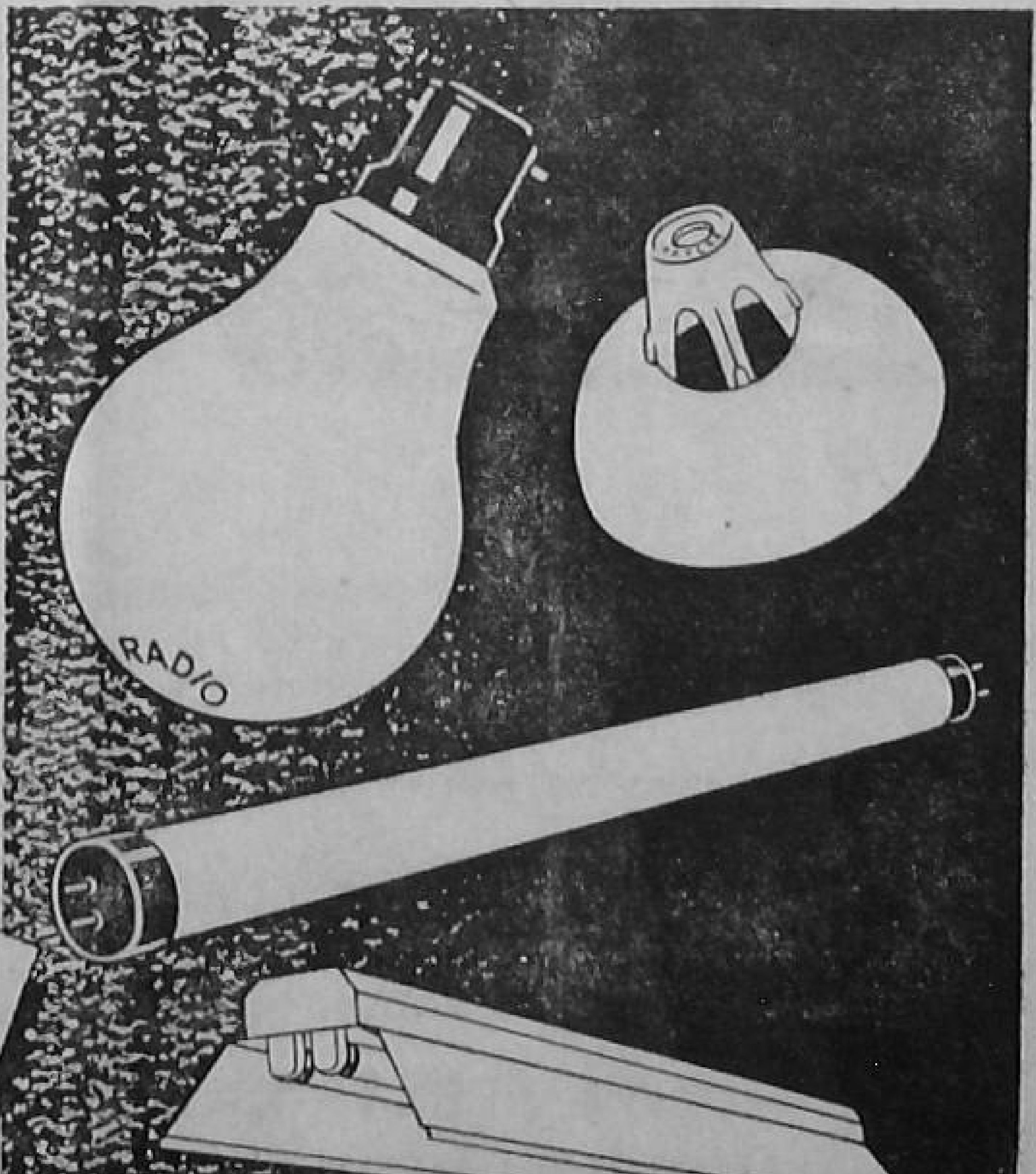

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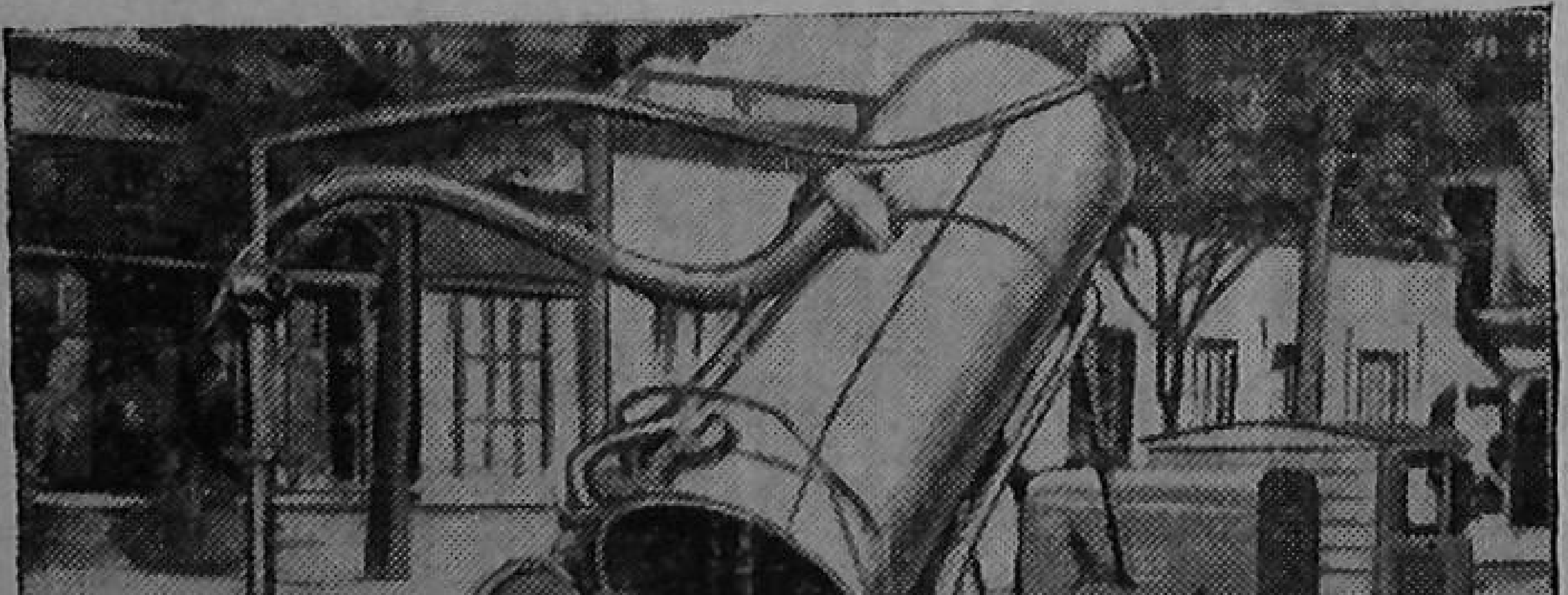

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EDITORIAL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

While accusing the Congress President, Mr. U. N. Dhebar, of thoughtlessness in having advised the people that if they really loved the Prime Minister to do nothing that he did not like, a former Congress President Mr. Purushottamdas Tandon, went out of his way to describe the Community Projects and N.E.S. Blocks as "monuments of failure." There could not a more reckless statement, coming as it does from a leading member of the Congress Party, who is also a member of the Lok Sabha, which had recently on a private member's motion at great length deboted the work of the Community Projects, and in view of the great faith placed in it by the country and the Government in so much as Rs. 200 crore has been allotted for it in the Second Five Year Plan.

Mr. Raghubir Sahai, the author of the motion which was deboted in the Lok Sabha from December 9, 1955, to March 2, 1956, in which 14 members of the Lok Sabha took part, besides the Deputy Planning Minister, who made an elaborate reply, in a critical appraisal of the debate in the April 1, 1956, issue of the *A. I. C. C. Economic Review* has pointed out that it was not the case of any member that the Community Project Programme was not rightly conceived or that it had failed altogether. All that was brought out and emphasised was that more positive results should have been achieved and that in certain directions a need for a change in approach and out look was called for. All that was urged in the House. Mr. Raghubir Sahai went on to say, was due mainly to the anxiety of members that they expected more from the programme of Community Projects over which such a huge sum had been spent, and there disappointment could be attributed to non-fulfilment of expectations.

Serialising the points that emerged from the debate, Mr. Raghubir Sahai said that members were not satisfied with the working of Community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks in the country; there was too much bureaucratisation and a systematic effort to ignore intelligent, non-official participation and collaboration; the working of Advisory Committees was not at all satisfactory; the cultural aspect of the programme was ignored altogether, the personnel specially in the higher category, did not possess requisite mentality to assimilate themselves with the village people; Members were not satisfied with the performance of the District Magistrate; there was lack of urge and zeal on the part of the people, as a whole.

(*Continued on page* 2)

Efficiency Assessment—Slum Clearance—Illiteracy In Towns—A Civic Leader

The evaluation of the work of community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks through the Programme Evaluation Organisation in the Planning Commission has been rightly commended in many quarters. That extravagance and waste would occur in excution of projects is inevitable. This can't be avoided even in a totalitarian country. China's Finance Minister at the opening session of the National People's Congress in Peking on June 15 criticised extravagance and waste in China's construction projects. He said China "must fight conservatism but must also oppose the impatent tendency of taking risks — a tendency which has appeared in many departments and places during the past few months." The Minister said that in a number of construction projects the "phenomena of avarice for quantity and

EDITORIAL

(*Continued from page* 1)

After the above elaborate debate in the Lok Sabha for any member to describe the Community Projects and N.E.S. Blocks as "monument of failure" is hardly proper. As in the case of foreign affairs, there are some matters of domestic policy about which it is necessary that the approach of everyone should be constructive. Village Uplift programme is obviously one such matter, in view of its great importance and repercussions on the future welfare of the people.

A Ford Foundation Expert, Mr. M. L. Wilson, with 50 years experience of similar work in U. S. A., who recently made a survey of the Community Development Programme in India, was not only impressed by what has been achieved, he was positive that it is going to be "a people's programme". What impressed Mr. Wilson most was the concept of evaluation of the work of the community projects and N. E. S. Blocks through the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, which, he said, has worldwide significance. He knew of only one other programme in the whole world that has had the benefit of the continuing evaluation process of its plans, its activities and its development from year to year. That this evalution is not perfunctory is clear from the Evaluation Report issued in April, 1956, which also draws attention to many of the defects, brought out in the Lok Sabha debate.

Community Development Programme of the Country needs all the encouragement that can be given it to achieve the targets set for it.

magnitude of extravagance and of waste and of drawing up inflated budget estimates are again rearing their ugly heads."

Constant evaluation of projects through an impartial agency, may not altogether eliminate extravagance and waste, it will certainly help keep it at a minimum. What is most important such evaluation also prevents extravagant disparagement, which is no less dangerous, while it to keeps the feet of those responsible for execution of projects planted on solid earth.

It is now learnt that the process of programme evaluation is likely to be extended to other projects too. A special committee with the Union Home Minister as Chairman will carry out a constant assessment of efficiency of various projects. Its other members will be the Planning and the Finance Ministers, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, two Chief Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister and the Union Minister under whose jurisdiction the project under investigation may lie. The committee will also initiate studies to evolve suitable forms of organisation, methods, standards and techniques for ensuring efficient execution of projects.

Such a committee is expected to prove invaluable in promoting efficiency and to check extravagance and waste.

Slum Clearance in Capital

Rapid progress is bound to be made in regard to slum clearance in the Capital following the Prime Minister's continued interest in it. Delhi has been described as a vast, dirty slum, according to the Bharat Sewak Samaj. It was not always so. On the contrary, it was the pride of India when Shahjehan built it, some 300 years ago. In the twilight of the Moghul rule, a British Clergyman, Bishop Heber writing of Delhi of Akbar II, said: "Its principal streets are really wide, handsome and, for an Asiatic city, remarkably clean. The shops in the bazar have a good appearance.

Then the decay started, and in 1912, the President of the Old Delhi Municipal Committee, Col. Beadon, in his annual report said: "The people in Delhi have been huddled into a totally insufficient area so that the streets have been encroached upon, slums have been built and the land has become so va luable that even capitalists cannot build." Col. Beadon's warning that "the most pressing need of Delhi citizens is room, room to build, room to work, room to play, room to walk, room to drive", remained unheeded, and to-day Shahjehan's city (Old Delhi) built for a population of about 60,000, has become the most congested city of India. The density of population in parts is 1,128 per acre, and the Bharat Sewak Samaj says, "thousands of people sleep in open drains, in streets or on pavements. The so-called houses where a majority of the population lives are worse than stables. They have no proper ventilation, drainage, latrines and water supply. There are areas where houses are two to three feet underground. Some of them are even without roofs."

The above no doubt is an exaggeration, resulting from the righteous indignation over the many black spots in the capital. Even in Old Delhi conditions could not so bad, or equally bad, everywhere. Most of the New Delhi is a well-planned neat town fit to be the proud capital of any country.

Slums exist everywhere in the country. The manner in which and the speed with which they will be clearad in the Capital will be an example and inspiration to other towns. Operation Slum Clearance of Delhi has, therefore, a national significance.

Illiteracy In Our Towns

A sample survey on urban unemployment in the larger towns of India having a population of over 50,000 conducted by the National Sample Survey revealed that illiterates co ituted 57.36 percent of the population. iterates, who had passed the matrici ion examination were only 3.7 percent ntermediates were 0.75 percent. and graduates and above 0.64 percent. All the literates put together constitute only 42.42 percent of the population, the males accounting for 27.82 percent and the females for 14.60 percent.

Under conditions of such appalling illiteracy it is little wonder if on crucial occasions people behave as they have down on the isuue of linguistic division of the country. Referring to the ugly happenings in Bombay city, the Congress President, Mr. U. N. Dhebar said it pained him to witness the stand of some people in Bombay, which once had taught the "lesson of nationalism" to the whole country. He was constrained to say: "while we are all nationalists, nationalism in actual practice in India is at a discount."

As however, Mr. Dhebar pointed out it had taken 300 years in Britain to perfect democracy and it took America nearly 70 years to digest the lesson. The extent of illiteracy, referred to above, in our towns acts as a further drag on the infant democracy.

A Ttribute to Mr. S. K. Patil

Congress President Mr. U. N. Dhebar, while unveiling a portrait of Mr. S. K. Patil in the Bombay Municipal Corporation Hall on June 4, recalled that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel used to describe Mr. Patil as "the battering ram of the Indian National Congress." Mr. Dhebar said that a strong personality was often misunderstood. "The stronger the personality, the greater the misunderstanding," Mr. Dhebar said, and added that it was Bombay's good fortune to have the services of strong pesonalities, whether as a Mayor or as a Chief Minister.

Mr. S. K. Patil had the unique distinction of being the Mayor of Bombay for three successive terms, and he was associated with the Corporation since 1934. Mr. Dhebar also paid a tribute to the Bombay Corporation by saying that Bombay's civic administration was more efficient than in any other city in India.

Mr. Patil's interest in civic administration, despite his larger interests and other commitments, continues. Without the impact of powerful personalities civic administration, like other administrations is bound to stagnate, specially in a country where so much has still to be done in so many directions. Without the Prime Minister's interest, it is obvious, the problem of slum clearance in the Capital would not have received the attention it has. Both Mr. Patil and Mr. Morarji Desai have stood like a rock in the controversy that has raged over the issue of the future of Bombay City. Their discipline would be always an auspiration, howsover one may differ from them in veiws.

(*Continued on page* 83)

O & M Division Of Government Of India

Its Working In 1955-56

The second annual report of the Organisation & Methods Division of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of India, dealing with the Division's activities in the year 1955-56, was presented to the Parliament last month.

The Division continued to function through O & M Cells set up in each Ministry under the charge of an officer designated as O & M Officer. The number of O & M Officers during the year had risen to 63 from 53 in the previous year.

Early in the year the Cabinet Secretary convened a meeting of all the Secretaries to take stock of the progress made by the O & M drive and to enlist their co-operation in planning further advances. Joint meetings of all O & M Officers were held with the Director of O & M Division, Mr. S. B. Bapat, I.C.S., from time to time, in addition to numerous small meetings between the Director and the individual O & M Officers or groups of officers. Periodical O & M meetings of officers and staff presided over by the Secretary or other senior officers are now being regularly held in almost all the Ministries to review the progress of O & M generally and to resolve doubts and difficulties.

Central Division's Assistance

While internal O & M Officers continued to be responsible for organising the O & M effort in their respective Ministries, a new feature of the year was the provision of a degree of external assistance by an officer of the Central O & M Division who was appointed in March, 1955, with the designation of Deputy Director. His primary function is to pay informal visits to Ministries and offices, to make random checks to see how the prescribed procedures are being correctly followed, to give advice on the spot and assist the internal O & M officers generally in sustaining the O & M effort. Altogether he has visited 396 section in 99 administrative units (Ministries, Departments and attached and subordinate offices), including some located at Calcutta, Bombay and Simla. His visits had proved very beneficial and brought about a marked improvement in the exercise of internal supervision to maintain speed and quality of work.

The Second Phase

The first phase of the O & M drive had been deliberately planned to create general awakening and to see whether the existing procedures were being properly followed. The year under report witnessed the second phase which was characterised by a systematic attempt to examine the existing procedures to see if they could themselves be improved and made simpler. For this purpose, it was decided to make an analytical study of each step in the procedure to see why it was prescribed, whether it was necessary or could be eliminated, and whether there was any other better way of getting the same result. A beginning was made with a study of the movement of a communication from the time it is received in the Central Registry of a Ministry till it is submitted to the Section Officer.

Time-Saving By Direct Submission

It was found that despite instructions in the Manual sufficient and clear directions as

to the line of action were not usually given by the Branch Officers and Deputy Secretaries on the receipts submitted to them in dak. A good deal of unnecessary and repetitive noting by Assistants and at subsequent stages was still taking place and enough use was not being made of the time-and-labour-saving device of direct submission of cases by Assistants to Branch Officers and Deputy Secretaries. Part of the explanation for the existence of these defects lay in the fact that giving of a definite direction and purpose to the line of action and the writing of sufficient detailed instructions on the receipts submitted in pads called for a physical and mental effort which was not easily evoked. To overcome the natural inertia in these matters, the Ministry of Home Affairs decided at one of their O & M meetings to try a new experiment. On the receipt of the dak in the Section the Section Officer would sort it out into two groups, *viz*. (1) minor receipts, that is receipts of a routine and straight-forward nature which do not require instructions from higher officers in regard to further steps to be taken, and (2) major receipts, that is, receipts raising new questions of policy, modifications of existing order or policy or difficult cases. While action on the minor receipts would be initiated in the Section in the usual way, all major receipts would be taken by the Section Officer personally to the Deputy Secretary at a pre-arranged time every day for his personal instructions. The Deputy Secretary would call in the Under Secretary in charge, if necessary, and give appropriate direction in respect of each receipt. The experiment having been tried with beneficial results in the Home and Commerce and Industry Ministries has been recommended to all others for adoption.

Regular Inspections

The process of inspection was introduced at an early stage of the O. & M. drive to spread efficiency-consciousness among officers of all levels and to find out how far the existing instructions and procedures were being properly understood and followed. With effect from the year 1956, inspections have been made a permanent feature. A common pattern for a round-the-year programme which has been recommended to all Ministries provides that every Section should be inspected completely and thoroughly at least once a year.

Control Mechanism Speeds Up Work

A detailed account was given in the first annual report of the control mechanism devised for ascertaining speed of disposal of work in Ministries in terms of primary receipts. It had also described how the statistics reported to the Central O & M Division were being made use of for depicting a comparitive picture in the shape of charts and graphs and how this method had helped to generate a spirit of healthy competition all round. Similar charts and graphs showing the state of affairs in different sections are now prepared in each Ministry and exhibited on the walls of each Secretary's room. This enables the Secretary to keep a close and personal eye on the progress of O & M effort and to take up with the officers concerned the problems of any sections which may be lagging behind.

A comparision of the figures of the average monthly carry-over during the last quarter of the year 1954-55 and during the corresponding period of the year 1955-56 showed that distinct improvement had obviously been achieved in the majority of Ministries and in several instances the progress was notably

good. The only organisations which markedly lost ground were the Ministries of External Affairs, Natural Resources and Scientific Research, and Production.

Decentralisation

The programme of inspection was extended to the Central Receipt and Issue Sections of the Ministries early this year and the first round revealed that in many places avoidable loss of time occurred in the movement of papers to and from the Central Receipt and Issue Sections and in the course of typing, comparing and issue of drafts. Some Ministries had succeeded in eliminating the time lag by decentralising the typing and comparing pools and getting this part of work done within the dealing sections by distributing among them the staff kept for these jobs in the Central Receipt and Issue Section. At the suggestion of the O & M Division it was agreed to extend this experiment to all the Ministries. It is hoped to evolve a pattern of organisation suitable for the needs of different types of Ministers after full results of the experiment become available.

Repairs of Type-Writers

During the inspection of the Central Receipt and Issue Sections of certain Ministries, it came to notice that a lengthy and cumbersome procedure had to be gone-through in getting type-writers and duplicating machines repaired. The Ministries had first to contract the manufacturers and get their estimate. If the estimate exceeded Rs. 50 it had to be referred to the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, for his prior scrutiny and advice as to whether or not the machine should be repaired at the estimated price. All this took much time and on occasions the number of machines actually available remained much below the number sanctioned. After a study of the difficiencies inherent in the prescribed procedure, the O & M Division recommended to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply that while there was need and justification for maintaining an overall centralised control, there was ample scope for allowing the Ministries and Heads of Departments a freer hand. As a result, orders have been issued giving administrative authorities—(1) full power to incur expenditure on servicing, maintaining and upkeep of machines within the schedule laid down in contracts entered into with the manufacturers concerned by the Chief Controller, Printing and Stationery; and (2) power to incur expenditure upto Rs. 300 (instead of Rs. 50) on replacement of parts subject to price schedulea pproved by the Stationery Office.

Shortage of Stationery

Similarly, it was found that there were a number of complaints about shortage of essential forms and articles of stationery and about inordinate delays in the fulfilment of of indents by the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta. As efforts made by individual Ministries did not seem to evoke adequate response and the problem appeared to be assuming serious proportions, a Study Group has been set up to make a thorough examination of the existing system of procurement and distribution of stationery and forms to find out the reasons for existing shortages and to suggest suitable remedies to ensure adequate and timely supplies in future.

Training of Clerks

Repeated inspections revealed that certain simple types of procedual defects continued

to persist almost everywhere. On looking into their causes it was found that these defects were largely due to the clerks recruited through the Employment Exchanges being put directly on the job without being given an opportunity of acquiring a working knowledge of what was expected of them. The Secretariat Training School provided limited facilities for the training of the Secretariat staff but these were at present restricted to the direct recruits to the grades of Assistant Superintendent and Assistant. Pending the reinforcement of the existing arrangement at the School, the O & M Officers in all Ministries were advised to start internal training classes on their own, specially for the benefit of the newly recruited Lower Division Clerks.

Promotion by Examination

The Ministry of Home Affairs decided sometime ago that promotion from the lower to the upper grade of the Clerical Service should be by "selection" and not by mere seniority. The assessment of fitness for selection had, however, to be based on the annual confidential reports on the work as Lower Division Clerk. Such work did not always furnish opportunities for spotting whether the individual concerned possessed qualities expected of an Upper Division Clerk. As a result the promotions very largely tended in practice to go by mere seniority and many of the promotees were found inadequate to the job in the upper grade. The problem was discussed at one of the joint meetings of all O & M Officers and it was recommended to the Home Ministry that in order to judge the candidates' power of comprehension and clarity of thought and expression, which were essential requirements of upper division clerk, a departmental examination should be held to assess a candidate's fitness coupled with the assessment of confidential reports. The recommendation has been accepted by the Home Ministry and the first examination under the scheme will be held in July, 1956.

Promotion on Trial

Promotions to long-term vacancies of Section Officer and Under Secretary were hitherto made on the basis of assessment of merit and performance in the lower grade. Though this indicated a probability that the officer selected would do well in the higher grade, this did not always happen. At the instance of the O & M Division, the Home Ministry have now issued instructions that all long-term promotions to the grade of Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary and Section Officer should be made on trial for a period of six months at the end of which a special report would be asked from the Secretary concerned whether the officer had proved suitable and should be continued in the higher grade, or, if he is unsuitable he should be reverted or the period of trial should be further extended.

Standard Confidential Reports

Promotions to selection posts are based primarily on merit. Since the assessment of relative merit turns out to a large extent upon a comparison of the confidential reports, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued early in 1955 a comprehensive set of instructions to ensure that the confidential record of every employee was regularly and conscientiously maintained. To help further in attaining this object and to secure maximum degree of uniformity in the standards of reporting the O & M Division prepared revised forms of annual confidential reports for the various grades of officers and staff, which have been put into use from January, 1956. To make the assessment as objective

as possible instructions have been issued that at the time of writing the confidential report all reporting officers should make use of O & M record which now provides factual and incontrovertible data regarding speed and quality of performance by personnel at all levels.

State of Efficiency

The existing rules provided that whenever there is any change in the incumbency of a gazetted post, the relived and relieving officers should sign a joint charge sheet. If the charge involved the custody of cash and stores, both the officers had to record additional certificates showing the cash and stores, etc. It was not generally appreciated that the state of efficiency of the organisation taken over is an equally valuable commodity. To remove this lacuna it has been decided that whenever a Branch or Section Officer hands over charge, both the relieved and relieving officers should take stock of efficiency on the date of transfer and complete and sign a porforma which has been specially designed for this purpose.

Enhancement of Powers

Mention was made in the first report of the O. & M. Division of the part played by the Division in the progressing of proposals for enhancing the financial and cognate powers of Ministries and Heads of Departments. The following are among the more important matters in which increased authority has been delegated :—(1) creation of temporary posts, (2) contingent and miscellaneous expenditure and expenditure on grants-in-aid; (3) officiating promotions in short-term vacancies; and (4) local purchase of stationery.

Delegated Authority

The administrative authorities were very much handicapped in the exercise of delegated authority by the fact that powers delegated to them were scattered over the various rules and regulations like the General Financial Rules, Book of Financial Powers, the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules, Treasury Rules, Civil Service Regulations, General Provident Fund Rules, etc. The O & M Division has prepared and circulated a compilation which brings together in one place for ready reference all the financial and cognate powers enjoyed by the Ministries and Heads of Departments and other administrative officers.

To initiate officers of all ranks into the establishment lore, the O & M Division has taken up the task of preparing a handbook which will bring out the questions which are likely to arise at various stages of establishment work and indicate for their convenience the rules, regulations and orders of Government which provide the answer. Section I of this handbook, consisting of 17 chapters covering the stage up to filling of posts has been prepared and circulated to all Ministries.

Personal Discussion

The O & M Division has been laying stress on the maximum possible use of personal discussion as a preliminary to written references. To facilitate such a discussion and to ensure that written references, when addressed by name, are sent direct to the right officers, the O & M Division has compiled a Directory showing the names and designations of officers in every Ministry and Department of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary, their residential addresses, telephone numbers and broad subjects dealt with by them, and the names and addresses

(Continued on next page)

Battle Against Corruption In Public Services

Administrative Vigilance Division's First Report

The work done by the Administrative Vigilance Division during the period August, 1955, to March, 1956, in fighting corruption in Central Government Services, is described in the first report of the Division, presented by the Home Ministry to the Parliament last month.

The Director of the Administrative Vigilance Division, Mr. S. B. Bapat. I.C.S., in the first report, describing the circumstances in which this organisation was born, recalls that though the problem of corruption in the Public Services had been very widely discussed, its causes examined and measures for fighting the evil recommended by many committees and authorities, the results achieved till then could not be regarded as fully satisfactory. The Central Government, his report says, is an unwieldly machine functioning through numerous departments and agencies spread over a vast area and employing hundreds of thousands of persons in all grades and types of posts. Slow progress in the battle against corruption was largely due to the fact that in the various Ministries and departments no particular person was responsible for dealing with complaints against officers and taking punitive measures, nor was it the responsibility of any particular officer to see that efforts of the Government as a whole were properly co-ordinated.

Origin Of Division

The Special Police Establishment, which was set up during the War and later received statutory recognition in the form of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946, was not sufficiently effective, partly because of its own organisational defects and partly due to a psychological resistance to its activities from the various Ministries and departments. It was against this background that the Home Minister decided that there should be, in the Ministry of Home Affairs, an orgnisation which would assume overall responsibility and provide the necessary drive, direction and co-ordination to ensure sustained and vigorous action by the individual Ministries and Departments. A note giving an outline of the proposed organisation was placed before the Parliament in August, 1955, and the Administrative Vigilance Division began functioning in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th August, 1955. All Secretaries to Government were invited to a meeting held on 16th August, 1955, at which the Home Minister explained to them the

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(*Continued from previous page*)

of the Heads of Attached and Subordinate offices. The Division also published during the year a chart showing the organisational set-up of the Government of India.

The Division has prepared a standardised code in the matter of blacklisting of firms and a centralised list of such firms is now maintained in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply and is circulated periodically to other Ministries and Departments and such State Governments as undertake to follow the provisions of standardised code for black-listing firms.

Mr. S. B. Bapat, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, continued to be the Director of the O & M Division throughout the year.

impartance he attached to the drive against corruption.

Connection with O & M

The Government of India already had an Organisation and Methods Division functioning through specially earmarked O & M Officers in the individual Ministries and departments, whose general objective is to increase the speed and efficiency in the disposal of government business without loss of quality. Apart from the general wastage and injury to the public interest caused by inefficiency and delay, the existence of complicated procedures and opportunities for holding up the progress of transactions have always furnished unscruplous Government servants with an effective means of securing illegal gratification, and the simplification and speeding up of procedures are also calculated to yield direct gain in the battle against corruption. In view of this close link between the objectives of the Vigilance Division and O & M work, it was decided that, at least in the initial stages, the Director of O & M Division, should also function as the Director of Administrative Vigilance. He is, however, assisted by a wholetime Joint Director and staff to help him on the vigilance side. In most of the Ministeries, similarly, the same officer combines the duties of Vigilance Officer and O & M Officer.

Organisation of Vigilance

By the end of August, 1955, Vigilance Officers had been nominated in all the Ministries. Independent organisations like the Union Public Service Commission, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariats also joined in the scheme. The Comptroller and Auditor General, however, did not think it necessary for his organisation to participate. It was agreed that Vigilance Officers should also be nominated for work in attached and Subordinate Offices. The total number of Vigilance Officers now stands at 163.

The Vigilance Officers are of the rank of deputy Secretary in all the Ministries, except the Ministries of Food, and Agriculture, Law and the Cabinet Secretariat, where they are of the rank of Joint Secretary. In the Central Board of Revnue one of the members is a Vigilance Officer for the Customs and Excise Branch, and a Director of Inspection of the status of Commissioner of Income-tax is the Vigilance Officer on the Income-tax side. In the Ministries of Communications, Works, Housing and Supply and Rehabilitation, extra posts of Deputy Secretary have been sanctioned because of the work arising out of Vigilance,

Secretary's Role

In a vast organisation like the Government of India it has always to be recognised that the main effort and initiative in the battle against corruption must come from within each Ministry and Department and that the responsibility for it must rest squarely on the shoulders of the Secretary of the Ministry or Head of the Department concerned. The role of the Vigilance Officer has, therefore, been conceived as that of his right-hand man or executive arm for that purpose. It has accordingly been made clear that though the Director of Administrative Vigilance acts as the chief guide and co-ordinator of the combined operation, each Vigilance Officer is responsible directly and solely to the Secretary and takes orders from his Secretary or Director of the Department. The Director is, however

responsible for seeing that the Home Minister, who is constitutionally responsible for shaping and implementing the over-all personnel policy of the Government, is informed of the progress of the drive against corruption in the various Mintstries and Departments.

The Vigilance Officers are in direct touch with the Director and the Joint Director who give them general and specific guidance. Joint meetings of all Vigilance Officers were also held thrice to take stock of the situation and plan future programme of action.

Corruption In Railways

The problem of corruption in the Railways is of such volume and complexity that it requires special and separate attention and treatment. In fact, a high-powered Committee, called the Railway Corruption Enguiry Committhe, has recently investigated the problem and made several recommendations.

Nevertheless, the Administrative Vigilance Division continues to devise ways and means of co-ordinating its work with the work arising in the Railways, this being necessary as the investigation of corruption offences in the Railways is done by the Special Police Establishment, which works under the general control of the Administrative Vigilance Division. While the exact set up for Vigilance work in the Railways is still under discussion with that Ministry, it has alrerdy been decided that an officer of the Indian Administrative Service with considerable magisterial and executive experience should be appointed as the Vigilance Officer in the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board). Similarly, the General Manager of each Zonal Railway will also have a suitable selected Vigilance Officer to assist him in maintaining the drive against corruption.

Procedural Changes

With a view to improve both speed and quality, the Administrative Viglance Division has introduced several important procedural changes in the handling of vigilance cases. Vigilance Officers have also been asked to concentrate on those aspects of their Ministries which are particularly likely to afford scope for corruption and malpractices, and to see whether the procedure followed requires simplification or stream-lining to reduce such scope.

The S. P. E. have now been authorised to contact the Vigilance Officers directly, and vice versa. This procedure has considerably facilitated and speeded up their work. There is also a psychological change in that the 'Ministries now look upon the S. P. E. as an arm of the Government placed at their disposal for conducting investigations which require special experience and police powers, rather than as an outside agency interfering with the affairs of Ministries and trying to find fault with them.

C. C. A. Rules

The Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal Rules) were last re-printed in 1949. A revision of these rules was undertaken to bring them in line with the new Constitution was undertaken by the Home Ministry several years ago but the progress was very slow. After the formation of the Administrative Division the work was taken up in right earnest, and the revised rules are now in print and will be promulgated in the very near future. The principal notable features of the revised rules are:

(1) Suspension has been removed from the list of penalties but clear and express power is provided for suspension pending investigation or inquiry being ordered by competent authority; (2) "Compulsory Retirement" has been added to the list of penalties; (3) The circumstances in which necessary administrative action can be taken, without its amounting to a penalty under the rules, are clearly specified; (4) The various stages of the procedure to be followed before the imposition of major and minor penalties have been fully explained; (5) The Schedules specifying the appointing, punish. ing and appellate authorities appropriate to the different grades of Government servants in the different Ministries and Departments have been rationalised, consolidated and brought up to date; and (6) the separate provisions relating to what were formerly referred to as "superior" and "subordinate" services have been rationalised and brought within the compass of a single set of rules.

Special Police Establishment

The Administrative Vigilance Division also supervises the work of the Special Police Eastablishment and is responsible, in a general way, for the speed and quality of the work of this Establishment. The new Inspector General of the S. P. E., who was appointed only in July, 1955, after a personal inspection of the S. P. E. Branches throughout the country formulated a number of proposals for improving the speed and efficiency. It has been decided to put every branch of the S. P. E. under the control of a Superintendent of Police. whereas formerly some of them used to be under a Deputy Superintendent of Police. Better quality prosecuting staff has also been sanctioned. Investigations are to be taken up only by officers of the rank of Inspector and above instead of the Sub-Inspector as at present. Units of the enforcement Branches dealing with various control orders which used to come under a separate Superintendent of Police located in Delhi, have now been attached to the various Branch Superintendents to ensure better control. The work relating to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act has now been taken over by a separate Enforcement Wing working directly under the Ministry of Finance (Economic Affairs) and the S. P. E. is no longer responsible for this work. The Central Investigating Agency of the S. P. E. has been strengthened to cope with the increasing number of cases of all-India importance. The headquarters staff has been strengthened by the addition of a Deputy Inspector-General. Special efforts had to be made to persuade the States to release suitabe men to man the S. P. E. A number of posts were still lying vacant owing to difficulties of adequately manning the posts.

Assessment Of Work

Assessing the results achieved by the A.V.D. in the first few months of its existence, the report says, it can confidently be stated that a new sense of awareness and urgency has been created in all Ministries and Departments and a concerted drive against corruption has been launched. Preventive and pnunitive action is now being conscientiously taken and pursued over the whole front. The benefits of the measures adopted, namely, allocation of definite responsibility to Vigilance Officers, speeding up procedures, organising regular and

surprise inspections, improvement in the liaison with the S. P. E., centralised direction and guidance etc., will be even more apparent in the coming year.

Difficulties

It must be pointed out, however, the report adds, that so long as unscruplous persons are prepared to offer illegal gratification to public servants in order to further their own ends, the problem of corruption will continue to exist. The Administrative Vigilance Division can at best only maintain an organised vigorous and sustained pressure to combat the evil. The very existence of such a machinery unfortunately encourages attempts on the part of anonymous and pseudonymous letter-writers to set it in motion against innocent persons for the satisfaction of personal malice and psycho-neurotic urges. However, the Division must also acknowledge gratefully the assistance it received from outside sources. The greater the co-operation it receives from the vast army of honest upright citizens and public servants, the greater will be the chances of success.

389 Cases Reported

Appendix IV to the Report gives a statement of the Vigilance cases concerning gazetted officers reported to the Administrative Vigilance Division by the Ministries and Departments. The total number of these cases is 398, the largest (169) being from the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. The Communications Ministry comes second but with only 48 cases. Customs and Income-Tax Department reported 26 and 23 cases, respectively, the Transport Ministry 21, Home Ministry (against ICS, IAS, etc.) 19, Irrigation and Power Ministry 17, Commerce and Industry Ministry 13, Health Ministry 11, Information and Broadcasting 10, Home Affairs (other staff) 8, Food and Agriculture 7, Defence and External Affairs 4 each, Production 3, Transport 2, and Finance (Economic Affairs), Iron and Steel and Natural Resources and Scientific Research Ministries 1 each. No cases were reported from other Ministries and Departments.

111 Cases Under S. P. E.'s Investigation

The S. P. E. had under formal investigation on 31st March, 1956, 111 cases, of which 82 were initiated in 1955; 22 were pending from 1954, and 7 were pending from 1953 or earlier.

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Delegated Legislation In India

Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, chairman of the Lok Sabha's Committee on Subordinate Legislation, said on May 17 that he had written to Mr. Justice Ramaswamy, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, stating that Parliament was exercising effective control over subordinate legislation. Mr. Justice Ramaswamy was reported to have told a Parliamentary seminar held in Patna that the supremacy of Parliament was of no practical value if little or no control was exercised by it over the delegation of power. One method of control was to provide in the enabling statute that the regulations made by the executive should be laid before Parliament for a prescribed period of time for its approval. The other control was to have all such regulations scrutinized by a committee of Parliament.

Mr. Chatterjee said all the suggestions made by Mr. Justice Ramaswamy had been already adopted. The committee on subordinate legislation had been functioning since December, 1953, and had produced so far four reports. In its very first report, it had recommended to the Government that all rules and regulations, made by them in pursuance of various statutes, should be laid on the table of the House for a uniform period of 30 days and Parliament should be given the power within this period to amend, annul or cancel them.

The committee, Mr. Chatterjee said, had drawn the attention of the Government, from time to time, to the "unusual powers" exercised by them which were not in accordance with the terms of the statute. The committee had also sometimes gone into various policy matters and "pulled up" the departments. In the case of the rules made under the Estate Duty Act, for instance, the committee saw to it that no taxation was levied through the rules. In other instances, the committee had checked attempts to "curb or encroach upon" the jurisdiction of the courts. The Government, said Mr. Chatterjee, had responded to the wishes of the committee in a co-operative manner and assured the committee that their rule-making powers would be exercised with discration.

Mr. Chaterjee recalled his talks with Sir Cecil Carr, who functioned as the adviser of the Subordinate Legislation Committee of the House of Commons, last year when he had attended the Commonwealth Law conference. On the basis of his talks with Sir Cecil Carr, he was convinced that the Indian committee functioned on lines similar to those adopted by the U.K. committee. In fact, Mr. Chatterjee felt the committee here had done more than the House of Commons committee during the short period of its existence.

Mr. Chatterjee said he was requesting the Speaker to convene a conference of the chairmen of the committees on subordinate legislation of the various States so that all the committees would function in a uniform manner throughout India.

U.P. Committee

The U.P. Legislative Assembly has set a Committee of Delegated Legislation with Mr. Dwarka Prasad on Muzaffarnagar as Chairman. The Committee will scrutinise the rules and regulations made under the delegated authority of the U.P. Legislature to assertain:— (a) that they are in accordance with the Statute. (b) that they do not trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties. (c) that they do not unduly make the rights and liberties of citizens dependent on administrative and not on judicial decisions (d) that they are concerned with administrative detail and do not amount to substantive legislation which should be a matter of Parliamentary enactment.

Administrative Sovereignty: Problems of Delegated Legislation in U. K.

Professor Richard C. FitzGerald, who read a paper dealing with delegated legislation under the title "Administrative Sovereignty" at the 30th Annual Spring Meeting of the Town Planning Institute of U. K. at Bournemouth on April 26, has repeated his suggestion made in 1950 that a Supreme Court of Administration should be established to safeguard the citizens' rights.

In view of a recent reference made by Mr. N. C. Chatterji, Chairman of the Committee of the Indian Parliament on Subordinate Legislation, to the functioning of a similar Committee of the British Parliament, this article, based on excerpts from a speech of Prof. R. C. FitzGerald, will be read with interest.

—Editor.

Prof. Richard FitzGerald said: "In these days, when more and more power over men, their property and their livelihood is being concentrated in the hands of a mere handful of the total population, it is more important than ever before that effective safeguards should exist to protect each and every citizen from abuse of power.

Power Corrupts

"No one who exercises power is immune from its corrupting tendency, and in fairness to him, as well as in the public interest, there should exist independent courts or tribunals with power to give final and binding decisions on all administrative acts, other than those strictly falling within the royal prerogative.

"In ordinary justiciable matters the courts of law are a bulwark against unlawful acts, although even there, because of the power of Ministers to claim privilege for documents, justice may be denied.

"But when one turns to the sphere of administration one sees a dreadful picture. One is confronted by row after row of autocrats, the sum total of whose powers virtually amount to omnipotence. That state of affairs is sapping the people of this country of their initiative and independence, and its continuance should no longer be tolerated.

"No person in this country, be he Minister of the Crown, trade union official, chairman of a nationalized industry, and so on, should be allowed to wield despotic power. Parliamentary vigilance, though impotant, is insufficient, as Parliament is not a suitable body to examine, control and judge at individual levels.

"It will be difficult to decide the best solution, but our task will be lighter if we reorientate our views of the way in which the British Constitution should work."

Conflict Between Liberty and Govt.

In 1931, the Committee on Finance and Industry, presided over by the late Lord Macmillan, had reported: "The most distinctive indication of the change of outlook of the government of this country in recent years has been its growing preoccupation, irrespective of party, with the management of the life of the people. A study of the Statute Book will show how profoundly the conception of the function of government has altered. Parliament finds itself increasingly engaged in legislation which has for its conscious aim the regulation of

the day-to-day affairs of the community, and now intervenes in matters formerly thought to be entirely outside its scope. This new orientation has its dangers as well as its merits. Between liberty and government there is an age-long conflict. It is of vital importance that the new policy, while truly promoting liberty by securing better conditions of life for the people of this country, should not, in its zeal for interference, deprive them of their initiative and independence which are nation's most valuable assets."

The zeal for interference, Prof. FitzGerald said, has to a marked degree become the policy not only of the Government but also of bodies and organisations not forming part of the Government proper, and unless adequate steps are taken to keep the movement in check the consequences for the individual will be humiliating and for the nation disastrous.

Zeal for Interference

The practice of entrusting lagislative and judicial functions to the Executive is the method by which the zeal for interference is carried out. In other words, the old and familiar process of delegated legislation. Prof. FitzGerald said, the following view expressed by the Committee on Ministers' Powers in 1932, now commands general support, namely: "We see in it (delegated legislation) definite advantages provided that the statutory powers are exercised and the statutory functions performed in the right way. But risks of abuse are incidental to it, and we believe that safeguards are required, if the country is to enjoy the advantages of the practice without suffering from its inherent dangers."

Parliamentary Aspect

Safeguards are of two types, namely, Parliamentary and Administrative. So far as the Parliamentary aspect was concerned, the position appeared to be fairly satisfactory, in the United Kingdom the Professor said. The general practice was to limit regulation-making powers to three classes of matters, namely, (1) procedural points or technical issues—matters too detailed; (2) those in which elasticity is desirable to enable alterations to be made in the light of changed circumstances; and (3) those in which new statutory powers are being created and in which the line of future developments cannot be fully foreseen. Further, wherever practicable outside interest which may be affected, are consulted informally. In certain cases the Minister has to obtain the approval of the Legislation Committee of the Cabinet for the delegated legislation he wishes to make. This Legislation Committee is a very strong one, being presided over by a senior Cabinet Minister and normally including the Lord Chancellor, the Leaders of the two Houses, the Law Officers and the Chief Whip.

Scrutiny Committee

A further safeguard on the 'parliamentary side' is the Scrutiny Committee (of the House of Commons), or, to give it its full title, the Select Committee on Statutory Instruments. This Committee was first set up in 1944, and partially implemented the recommendation made by the Committee on Ministers' Powers in 1932. The Committee consists of eleven members, the practice being to appoint to member of the Opposition as Chairman. The duty of the Committee (which meets fortnightly and, in special circumstances, more often) is to

consider whether the special attention of the House of Commons should be drawn to a statutory instrument or draft on any of the following grounds, for example, (1) that it imposes a charge; (2) that it excludes challenge in the Courts; (3) that it purports (without specific authority in the parent Act) to have retrospective effect; (4) that there has been unjustifiable delay in publication or laying before Parliament or in sending a notification to Mr. Speaker when the instrument comes into operation before it has been laid; (5) that its form or purport calls for elucidation; or (6) that it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it was made.

Before the Scrutiny Committee reports to the House it hears what the Department concerned has to say, the Department's answer being annexed to the Committee's report. Since its establishment in 1944 the committee has seen over 7,000 instruments and has drawn the attention of the House of Commons to something in the region of 100 of these. That the number is so small as 100 indicates that delegated legislation is carefully made, and also that the existence of the Committee has made a salutary effect upon Government Departments, who realize that their work will have to be considered by the Committee, which has the assistance of Sir Cecil Carr, Q.C., who is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, living authority on delegated legislation.

Administrative Aspect

But turning from the 'parliamentary' aspect to the 'administrative' aspect, the position, Prof. FitzGerald says, was unsatisfactory. Whilst it could be argued that existing parliamentary control of delegated legislation provided a reasonable safeguard against abuse of taking too wide powers of delegated legislation—although here it must be remembered that a Government with a working majority in the House can ultimately get what it wants—it cannot be contended that there were now adequate safeguards against possible abuse of the powers given by the delegated legislation. In other words, the exercise of delegated powers was insufficiently safeguarded. This comment applied to ministerial action in general.

Unitary Government For India

Nearly 90 percent of the Ministers in most of the States in India spent about 90 percent of their time and energy "humouring their party factions at public expense" in order to keep their "slippery seats," Mr. P. Kodanda Rao, a member of the Servants of India Society, told the Bombay Rotary Club on June 26. That, he said, was a "misfortune to the people", though it might be some comfort to some politicians, he added. He was speaking on "Unitary Government for India."

Under the second Five Year Plan, India proposed to find jobs for five million people. It should not be difficult to find jobs for about five thousands people." He estimated that the total number of members in the State legislatures was about 5,000.

He advocated the elimination of the "federal handicaps" in the otherwise unitary Constitution of India. It was largely unitary with a few "federal frills". India was admittedly unitary with reference to the "Union Subjects" and the "Concurrent Subjects". The "States Subjects" could be taken over by the Centre even in peace time by a two-thirds majority of the Rajya Sabha. The judicial system was also unitary. And so was the Planning Commission.

If the Central Government could administer the Union and the Concurrent Subjects democratically, for the whole of India as a single unit, there was no reason why it should not administer the States subjects equally democratically, Mr. Kodanda Rao added.

Public Administration In States

Bihar

Enquiry Against Ministry

In its drive to ensure purity of administration, the Congress Working Committee was reported to be closely examining certain allegations against the Bihar Assembly. The allegations including those of corruption and maladministration were first made by 74 Congress MLAs of Bihar some time ago and were looked into by the Congress President, Mr. U. N. Dhebar, who paid two visits to the State in this connection. Mr. Dhebar had already submitted his report to the Central Parliamentary Board. It was stated that he found there was a case for further detailed examination of some of the charges. The Congress High Command had already initiated certain staps to undertake this investigation.

Role of Civil Services In Free India

Pandit Harinath Mishra, Health and Supply Minister, addressing the trainees of the Administrative Officers' Training School at Ranchi in June, said that they were the means for carrying the country forward on to the goal of planty, equality and social Justice in every sphere.

The Administrative Officers' Training School at Ranchi has been set up by the Bihar Government on the lines of the Administrative Officers' Training School in Delhi. It imparts training to Deputy Magistrates and Sub-deputy Magistrates recruited by the State Government.

Pandit Mishra said during the British regime the needs and objectives of the services were obviously radically different from what they had come to be at present. Primarily and broadly the services were expected to act up to the policy of the British masters then, and were required to adopt their activities and behaviour keeping this in view. This had created a wall of indifference, contempt and even hostility between the services on the one hand and the people and the particularly the resurgent Indian nationalism, on the other.

With the achievement of Independence, the position had changed radically. In the political field, equality has been achieved with the introduction of universal adult suffrage. In the economic field, efforts were being made to brigde the gap between the rich and the poor by various devices.

While it was true that legislatures had become the repository of all political powers and prestige, the relationship between a man in the street vis-a-vis, an official was still unsatisfactory, the former was still regarded as the ruled and the latter as the ruler. Because of the existing "caste systems" even in the services, the feeling of "self-glorification" was the privilege and monopoly of only a chosen few.

Referring to the misgivings about the capacity of the present generation, including public workers and administrators, Mr. Mishra said that the recent tragedies enacted in some parts of the country in connection with the recommandations of the States Reorganisation Commission had demonstrated that their loyalty to the country and sentiments of nationalism had been only skin-deep and that on the first touch with reality, narrow geographical and linguistic considerations had weighed uppermost in their minds. Their only hope was that the democratic forces, which have been released in the country, would find their own corrective, Mr. Mishra concluded.

Marriage Restrictions Relaxed

The Bihar Government has modified its previous order imposing restrictions on the appointment of married persons to Government service.

Under the original orders, passed in July, 1955, no candidate was eligible for appointment to the services and posts specified therein if he had married before attaining the age of 23 years, and a person appointed to such a service or post could not marry until he reached the age of 21, except with the permission of Government. In

both these cases the bar has now been lowered to 21 years. The lowering of the bar will be in force only for a period of two years, that is, upto May 30, 1958. Thereafter the bar will again be raised to 23 years but the raising of bar will not affect persons who marry before attaining the age of 23 but after attaining the age of 21 during the period of two years ending on May 30, 1958.

Emergency Recruitment

Closely following the lines of the Central Government, the Government of Bihar are examining the possibilities of making emergency recruitment in Bihar Civil Service cadre. The State is in need of about 100 officers in this cadre.

Two years ago, the State Government had recruited to the Junior B. C. S. cadre about 100 officers from various departments of the Government. Over 400 condidates, recommended by the District Magistrates and the Commissioners of Divisions on the basis of meritorious work and record in various departments, were allowed to sit for an examination conducted by seven seniormost I. C. S. officers, on the basis of which about 150 candidates were called for *viva voca* and personality tests.

Instead of going in the open market for the recruitment of the additional staff, the State Government may follow similar procedure again. Ad hoc promotions may also be made departmentally. A Government spokesman said that experience has shown that direct recruitment from open market for executive posts was not at all satisfactory excepting in a few cases of extraordinary merit.

Officers Warned Against Contempt Of Legislature

The Chief Secretary to the Bihar Government has issued a circular to all State Government employees impressing on them that they should be on guard against conduct which was likely, even remotely, "to be constructed as a breach of the privileges of a House of the Legislature or of its members." The circular asked the employees to "refrain from making disparaging, or even critical remarks about the activities of members as members, or about the proceedings of either House of the Legislature, publicly or in the presence of a member or an officer of either House." Recently two privilege motions were moved in the State Legislature taking objection to some alleged remarks made by two Government officers. The first moved in the State Assembly had criticised alleged remarks by a Deputy Superintendent of Police aganist a member's speech on the police administration in the State and the proceedings of the Assembly generally. The other moved in the Council was in connection with some alleged remarks made by a Government doctor against a member of that House.

Bombay

Allocation of Services

According to a tentative list of allocation of civilian officers drawn up by the Government, half of the 110 I.C.S. and I.A.S. officers, now serving ih Bombay State, will go to Maharashtra when that State is formed on October 2. Of the remaining, 39 officers will be transferred to Gujerat and 16 to the reorganised State of Mysore. Of the 64 I.P.S. officers, now in Bombay, 33 will be posted in Maharashtra, 22 in Gujerat and nine in Mysore. These allocations have been made on the basis of domicile, mother tongue, languages known, seniority and place or places of service.

The new State of Maharashtra will have to absorb 29 civilian officers from Madhya Pradesh and 15 from Hyderabad, while Gujerat will have to accommodate 19 from Saurashtra. Maharashtra will thus have a cadre of 99 officers and Gujerat 58. The officers allotted include those whose services have been parmanently seconded to the Government of India.

School Of Higher Research In Business Management

The Ford Foundation had promised the University of Bombay "substantial support" for starting a school of higher research in business management. This was disclosed by Dr. John Matthai, Vice-Chanceller, in

his address to the Bombay Municipal Co-operation on June 28, in connection with the University's centenary celebrations to be held in February next. Appealing to the Corporation, "the biggest local body in the State," for a substantial contribution, Dr. Matthai said as the Corporation was looking after the social and economic requirements of the people of Greater Bombay, the University catered to the cultural and intellectual requirements of the people living in the municipal area. The University, in a way, had become a "civic University," with the same jurisdiction. He was very keen that there should be closer and more direct relations between the two bodies. Mayor, Mr. Shalebhoy Abdul Kader, assured Dr. Matthai that "we shall not be found wanting" in helping the University.

Governor Was A Police Officer

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, Governor of Bombay, while addressing cadets of the Central Police Training College of Mount Abut on June 11, said that he was once a Sub-Inspector of Police.

Hyderabad

Officers Permitted To Retire

The Hyderabad Government has, on the eve of the disintegration of the State, decided to permit Government servants to retire voluntarily on pension and gratuity proportionate to the length of their qualifying service with immediate effect. This concession will be in force till the end of August, 1956, and will apply only to those whose conditions of service are governed entirely by the rule-making powers of the State Government. The concession of permitting Government servants to retire on proportionate pension was in force previously for some time but was terminated in May, 1951.

Allocation of Officers

About 2,500 gazetted officers, including I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers of the Hyderabad State, have been allocated between the three linguistic regions of Telengana, Karnataka and Maharashtra of the present Hyderabad State in preparation for the State's break-up next October. The allocation of non-gazetted staff was being made by the heads of departments. The list of gazetted and non-gazetted officers will have to be submitted to the Union Government for approval.

Anti-Corruption Rule

The Government of Hyderabad has amended the Government Servants' Conduct Rules assuming powers to call upon a Government servant who is in possession of valuable property far beyond the known sources of his income, to account for the manner in which he acquired the property.

According to this new rule, if the explanation offered is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of Government that property has been acquired from his salaries and other known income, it may be deemed to be conduct not befitting a Government servant, for which suitable action will be taken against him.

Madhya Bharat

New Pay Scales

A Madhya Bharat Government Gezette Extra-ordinary on June 12 annouced details of the revised pay scale for the State's 80,000 employees, including gazetted ranks, which will involve an additional annual expenditure of Rs. 1.5 crores to the Government. The dearness allowance paid remains unchanged. According to a decision of the Government already announced, the scales will be given effect to retrospectively from October, 1955. The new scales will particularly benefit the lower ranks and also remove the anomalies in the scales of pay of lower and upper division clerks, who, as former employees of the different States which merged to form Madhya Bharat, were paid according to different scales of pay. Common pay scales have now been evolved for both the lower and upper division clerks. Special consideration has been shown to women for certain posts.

The Gazette announcement said that there would be no screening or retrenchment as a result of the revision of pay scales.

Age Limit for Government Service To Be Lowered

Mr. Manohar Singh Mehta, Madhya Bharat Education Minister, addressing a joint meeting of Presidents and Secretaries and Ministers of Madhya Bhatat, in Indore on June 29 said that the Union Government was now seriously considering the question of reducing the age limit for entry into Government service from 25 to 19 or 20 with a view to checking the onrush of students to the universities. According to the recommendations of the Mudaliar Commission, he said, secondary stage of education should be over at the age of 17. The Union Government, he said, would assess the country's requirments of personnel with higher education for different administrative wings in the cadre of I. A.S., I.P.S., doctors etc.; and admission to colleges would be regulated on that basis.

This, he said, would automatically reduce the rush of students going in for higher education and clamouring for degrees only to secure employments.

Madras

Importance of Secretariat Work

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, speaking at the "Service Week" sponsored by the Madras Secretariat Association on June 22, said it was the duty of the State Government, which was the biggest employer in the State, to improve the condition of their own employees before asking other employers to provide better facilities to their staff.

Paying a tribute to the good work of the Madras Secretariat, Dr. Mudaliar said, **"I believe that there is no other Secretariat in the whole of India that has been doing and is doing such meritorious work."**

Dr. Mudaliar said that theirs was the most important work in regard to the administration of the country. Any country which practised democracy had to depend very largely upon the work of the Secretariat than on any other Government department. It was in the Secretariat that all the proposals were finalised and it was from there that all the policies had to be directed. "These policies can be directed wisely and well only when all the facts are placed before those who are to decide them. It is your duty to place all the relevant facts fearlessly and in the best interests of the country, although sometimes those logical conclusiods which you might arrive at may not be appetising to the political bosses", he said.

Efficiency Dependent on Quality

The efficiency of the Secretariat, Dr. Mudaliar said, depended upon the quality of the work and not on the quantity of it. It was, therefore, necessary that every member drafted to the Secretariat should be satisfied with his emoluments, and do his best.

In the Secretariat, Dr. Mudaliar said, there was need for a certain amount of permanency. Frequent transfers of the staff would never serve the interests either of the Secretariat or of the Government. Whatever be their demands, a contented service was essential for any good Government.

The Chief Minister, who had inaugurated the Week, had earlier conceded the case of the Secretariat staff for increased pay and dearness allowance.

Non-Gazetted Officers' Agitation

Non-Gazetted Officers, working in the various Government offices in the State, had submitted signed declarations to the "Pay Disbursement Officers" in their respective offices expressing their decision to "defer" acceptance of their salaries by one day.

In the 34th conference held in Madras in May, 1956, the N. G. Os' Association had adopted a resolution to the effect that the N. G. Os' would defer receipt of their pay on the first working day of July, 1956, if the Government do not concede their request for increased dearness allowance on a par with similar employees of the Govenment of India working in Madras State.

Secretariat staff, who are not members of the N. G. Os' Association were not participating in this general protest.

In a last minute appeal to the State Government on June 29, the President

of the State N. G. Os' Association expressed their willingness to desist from taking any action if the Chief Minister assured them that he would consider their demands and give some relief in the near future. Mr. K. Menon explained that by deferring receipt of salaries they were not refusing to receive them. Nor could it be construed to mean as a threat of "direct action" against the Government.

Government Threat

The number of non-gazetted officers in Madras State is estimated at 50,000. The State Government in a communique issued on June 27 told the N. G. Os' that the Government was determined to maintain discipline and order among its staff at any cost and would not in any event, tolarate any attempt at coercion by officials in its service. The communique quoted standing rules on the subject, and said "concerted or organised refusal on the part of Government servents to receive their pay will entail serious disciplinary action". The Government would withdraw the recognition accorded to the N. G. Os' Association, if the officials carried out their threat. Individuel Government servants who participated in the demonstration would lay themselves open to disciplinary action.

The communique pointed out that the important issues like increase in pay scales and dearness allowance, which will have considarable repercussions on the financial resources of the State, have to be carefully and dispassionately considered in a calm and orderly atmosphere.

Commenting on the above communique Mr. K. Kennankutty Menon said that the Association was unable to revoke the unanimous decision of the general body to defer receipt of pay on the first working day of July, "unless we see something concrete before us". He regretted that the proposal to defer receipt of pay has been misconstrued.

Mr. R. Savarimuthu, a non-gazetted officer of the Madras Secretariat. who went on "a fast unto death" in the cause of the N. G, Os' on June 26 broke his fast on the following day and expressed regret for his action to the Police. He was let off after he broke the fast and undertook not to repeat the offence, which was "criminal trespass by squatting near the Flag staff of the Secretariat and causing obstruction, annoyance and intimidation to the staff".

Cost of N.G.Os' Demands

Finance Minister, Mr. Subramaniam, said on June 25 that he did not think it would be possible for the Government to consider the N. G. Os' demands, as long as direct action was on their agenda and direct action was also contemplated. He said it would cost the State Exchequer about Rs. 2 crores annually if the State Govenment servants' dearness allowance was to be brought on a par with the Central Government scales. He also said that the extra cost to the Exchequer for meeting the N. G. Os' damands for enhanced salary has not been worked out correctly. But it would be to the tune of another 2.5 crores of rupees.

A 39-man deputation, headed by Mr. Kannenkutty Menon, President of the Central Committee of the N. G. Os' Association, left Madras for New Delhi on June 15 to meet the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, however, did not agree to meet the deputation and sent word to it on June 19 that the subject matter which they wanted to raise was a State affair in which the Centre could not interfere.

The Madras Govenment had also earlier turned down most of the requests contained in the resolutions adopted at the annual conference of the non-Gazetted Government Officers' Association, held in 1955.

Mysore

Dr. Lohia's Attack on Administration

Dr. R. M. Lohia, Leader of the Socialist Party, addressing the Bangalore Bar Association on June 4, made an all-out attack on the present administration in the country. He said there was more police firing in India, which talked of non-violence and peaceful methods, than in any other democracy. India, Dr. Lohia said, had lost all measure and balance of fundamental law. The main reason for the present situation in the country, he contended, was lack of judicial consciousness. While interpreting

law, he said, it was wise to accept the more liberal and generous interpretation. **In India, he alleged, officers continually violated the law and they were expected to do so by a section of the people in their favour.** As long as there was a small section who practised civil disobedience against tyranny and maladministration there was hope for this country, Dr. Lohia concluded.

No Confidence In Chief Minister

More than 50 Congressmen of the Mysore Legislative Assembly have signed a petition expressing lack of confidence in the Chief Minister, Mr. K. Hanumanthaiya. The attempt to throw Mr. Hanumanthaiya out of power was acknowledged by the Chief Minister himself in his speech at Davangere on June 27. This is the second time during Mr. Hanumanthaiya's tenure of office that the question of confidence in his leadership has been raised. In December, 1954, a split in the Mysore Legislature Congress Party led to Mr. Hanumanthaiya's decision to seek a vote of confidence. He had emerged victorious from the confidence test. The present crisis has been touched off by Mr. Hanumanthaiya's stand on the issue of the unification of Kannada-speaking areas, including Mysore.

N. G. O.s Want Higher Pay

The Mysore State Non-Gazetted Officers' Association has demanded upgrading of the salary scales existing in the State to the level prevailing in Bombay State with the formation of Greater Mysore. In a memorandum submitted to he Inter-State Ministerial Committee, the Association's Secretary said that pay scales of non-gazetted officers in Mysore State were "the lowest in the Indian Union".

Punjab

First Woman Deputy Commissioner

Miss Sarla Khanna, I.A.S., has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Simla. She is the first woman Deputy Commissioner in Punjab and probably in India.

Travancore-Cochin

Former Chief Minister Exonerated

Mr. K. P. Madhavan Nair, Congress General Secretary, said in Ernakulam on June 11 that all charges, except one relating to the extension of the term of office of the Commissioner of the Trivandrum Municipal Corporation, levelled against the former Chief Minister, Mr. Govinda Menon, by the group of Congressmen led by Mr. K. Sanku Pillai, Mr. T. M. Varghese and Mr. K. M. Kora had been found by Mr. U. N. Dhebar, President of the Congress, to be "without any substance". Even regarding the extension of the term of office of the Commissioner Mr. Madhavan Nair said the Cheif Minister's decision was considered to be only an error of judgment, where there was no lack of honesty and bonafides. Mr. Nair pointed out that the Congress President's opinion and his decision were submitted to the Congress Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting in Bombay early in June. The Board accepted it. The AICC was, therefore, not pursuing this matter.

The Congress President had enquired into the charges against the former Chief Minister while he was in Travancore-Cochin on a tour in April last.

While the allegations and charges raised by six ex-MLAs collectively and Mr. K. S. Pillai individually were gone into by the Congress President, those raised by Mr. Kora could not be enquired as they related mainly to the actions of the Government in the administration of the State which required a study of necessary papers, Mr. Madhavan Nair said. Therefore, the Congress President had requested Mr. G. B. Pant. Union Home Minister, to go into them at administrative and Governmental level, Mr. Nair added.

Mr. Kumbalath Sanku Pillai's charges related to the personnal wealth and assets of Mr. Govinda Menon, while Mr. Kora had complained against lack of regional and community represcntatation particularly in all the nation-building and governmental departments of the State, Mr. Nair said.

(*Continued on page* 40)

Local Self-Government In Part 'C' States

Union Health Ministry's Work In 1955-56

Although Local Self-Government is primarily a State subject, the Ministry of Health of the Government of India are concerned with the general coordination of activities in this field by various State Governments.

In addition the administration of Local Bodies in Delhi, Kutch, Manipur and Tripura is under the overall control of this Ministry. Also certain special responsibilities in respect of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Delhi Improvement Trust have been allotted to the Union Health Ministry under the Part C States Act, 1951.

Besides this, the Directive principle enunciated in article 40 of the Constitution has made the task of the Union Health Ministry more onerous in regard to the formation and development of Panchayats, which have been accepted on all hands as the firm base on which the structure of democracy has to be erected, says the report of the Union Ministry of Health for 1955-56. The laying down of a uniform Government policy in this regard in consultation with the Local Self-Government and Panchayat Ministers of the State Government is the function of the Union Health Ministry.

Central Council of Local Self-Government

The Central Council of Local Self-Government, which was set up in 1954 as a result of the recommendation of the Second Local Self-Government Ministers' Conference, held its first meeting in June, 1955, and passed a number of far-reaching resolutions, such as the necessity for central assistance in the matter of establishing Panchayats in backward and tribal areas of States, the subsidisation by the Centre of Slum Clearance Schemes and National Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in urban areas, the necessity for an intermediate body between the Panchayats and State Governments, the allocation of a definite place under a separate head to Local Bodies in the second Five Year Plan and the formation of an Executive Committee of the Council to process its recommendations.

Executive Committee of Central Council

In accordance with the resolution of the Central Council of Local Self-Government, as Executive Committee with the Union Minister of Health as Chairman and the L.S.G. Ministers of Bombay, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra, Mysore, PEPSU and Vindhya Pradesh as Members, was set up. This Committee had its first meeting in November, 1955, and decided, *inter alia*, that the Ministry of Health should urge the Planning Commission to offer central assistance for the establishment of Panchyats in backward and tribal areas and for the training of Panchayat personnel. The Committee also emphasized that the Planning Commission should give a definite place to Panchayats and other Local Bodies in the second Five Year Plan and make proper allocations for this purpose, both in the Central and in the State Planrs.

The question of central assistance to Panchayats and other matters connected with the developmemt of Panchayats in States have also been under the active consideration of the Panchayat Study Group of the Planning Commission on which the Ministry

of Health is represented. The main conclusions of the Panchayat Study Group were that the Panchayats should be allotted functions in regard to (a) welfare programmes, (b) local works and their maintenance, (c) plans for the production of each family in the village and (d) promotion of Co-operative Societies in particular to assist in the process of making smaller people credit worthy. The Central Government should give substantial assistance not only for the training of Panchayat personnel but also for the establishment of Panchayats in backward areas. The recommendations are still under consideration of the Planning Commission.

Delhi Improvement Trust

The Delhi Improvement Trust had originally 12 schemes for clearing slums in a total approximate area of 416 acres, three of which have already been completed and two more are nearing completion.

Recently the Union Health Ministry have sanctioned a scheme of slum clearance for the Jumuna Bazar area at a total expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs. It is proposed to construct about 400 houses at Kilokheri and 1200 houses in Jhilmila Tahirpur, for re-housing the slum evictees from the Jamuna Bazar area.

Besides the above slum areas, there are innumerable Katras in the city which are as bad as slums. The clearance of these Katras and making them more sanitary are under the active consideration of the Health Ministry.

As against a total of 943 subsidised houses built by the Delhi Improvement Trust upto-1954-55, 108 more subsidised houses are nearning completion and the construction of another 420 houses has begun.

During 1956-57, the Delhi Improvement Trust propose to undertake development of 196 acres of Nazul land in Jhilmila Tahirpur for industrial purposes and 60 acres of Nazul land in Kilokheri for the construction of 2400 houses.

In order to minimise the delays in the execution of the Trust Works, it has been decided to to attach a separate Engineering organisation of the C. P. W. D. under the administrative control of the Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust.

Delhi Development Provisional Authority

In order that speedy and efficient steps may be taken to tackle the land and housing problem in Delhi, it has been decided that a single Planning and Development Authority should be set up to take over the functions of the existing multiple authorities operating in the field. The constitution of such an Authority is, however, likely to take some time as the legislation for the purpose will be an involved one. Meanwhile, a large number of buildings were being put up in a haphazard way all over Delhi and none of the existing Authorities had necessary legal powers to check, control or regulate these building activities. Such large scale haphazard construction, if not checked immediately, may give rise to additional slums in the capital which would ultimetely constitute a potential danger to the health of the citizens and spoil the architectural lay out of the city. With a view to prevent such haphazard constructions in and around Delhi, the Delhi (Control of Building Operations) Ordinance, 1955, was promulgated on the 22nd October, 1955, and the Delhi Development Provisional Authority was constituted under the provisions of this Ordinance.

The provisions of this Ordinance have since been enacted into an Act of Parliament, namely the Delhi (Control of Building Operations) Act, 1955.

According to the provisions of Act, the Delhi Development Provisional Authority is intended to function only upto the 1st January, 1957. Prior to that date it is hoped to constitute the Delhi Development Authority. The Authority has already declared certain areas in the State of Delhi as 'Controlled areas'. Simultaneously, a Town Planning Organisation has been set up to draw up a preliminary Master Plan for 'Greater Delhi', which is expected to be completed in about six months.

Assistance To Local Bodies In Part 'C' States

A sum of Rs. 62,000 was paid to the Agartala Municipality in Tripura State for Water Supply Sanitation and Public Health purposes. A further grant of Rs. 3,09,000 has also been sanctioned to the Agartala Municipality for their various schemes.

A loan of Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned to the Koelipet Notified Area Committee in Coorg.

The existing Water Supply Scheme at Imphal was drawn up some years back for supply of water to a population of about 35,000 at the rate of 5 gallons per head per day. This is very inadequate. A new Water Supply Scheme costing Rs. 28.36 lakhs and designed to cater for a population of 1 lakh at 14 gallons per head per day has been sanctioned. During the year 1955-56 a sum of Rs. 1.25 lakhs is likely to be spent and a provision or Rs. 10 lakhs is proposed to be made for 1956-57.

A scheme for the supply of water to Agartala Town at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,07,600 is under consideration and is likely to be sanctioned very shortly.

A loan of Rs. 1 crore, repayable in 30 equal instalments, was paid during 1955-56 to the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board for the execution of its Capital Works Programme.

Water Supply Of Greater Delhi

The installation of the additional Filtration Plant of 10 million gallons capacity along with the Filtration Plant of 15 million gallons constructed in 1954 at Chandrawal Water Works has been taken up to meet the increasing demand of Greater Delhi. The construction is likely to be completed by the Summer, 1956. The third reservoir for the Delhi City at Jhandewala has been completed and connected with Rajinder Nagar and Patel Nagar Distribution Systems.

First compartment of a new reservoir of 1.2. M. G. capacity at Ramjas Hill has been constructed and the other compartment of the same capacity is under construction. The reservoir when completed will feed the Industrial area and the colonies on the Najafgarh Road.

The new Reservoir constructed near the Diplomatic Enclave has started functioning and the supply to the Cantonment has been increased and the new Diplomatic Colony has been connected to this reservoir.

The work on the second stage of the Water Works at Okhla consisting of Intake, Filtration and Pumping Mains has been taken in hand. The scarcity of water in the river Yamuna again created a problem in the summer months of 1955 and the required quantity of water was obtained from the Punjab Government on payment through the Munak Escape.

The unsatisfactory state of water supply for Delhi has caused grave concern to the Union Health Ministry during this year, particularly after the unprecendented floods in the river Yamuna. The question was reviewed at an Inter-departmental meeting in November, 1955 by the Union Health Minister and an *ad hoc* Committee was constituted to ensure proper and adequate water supply far Delhi. This Committee had met twice so for and has also had the benefit of the technical advice of the Director, C. P. W. Research Station, Poona. As an interim measure it has been suggested that a 300 ft. span at an acute angle of 60° with the eastern bank of Yamuna towards the north should be constructed immediately as it might enable the top water to flow through the channel. As regards the permanent measure, the Research Station, Poona, undertook to prepare a working model after obtaining detailed particulars.

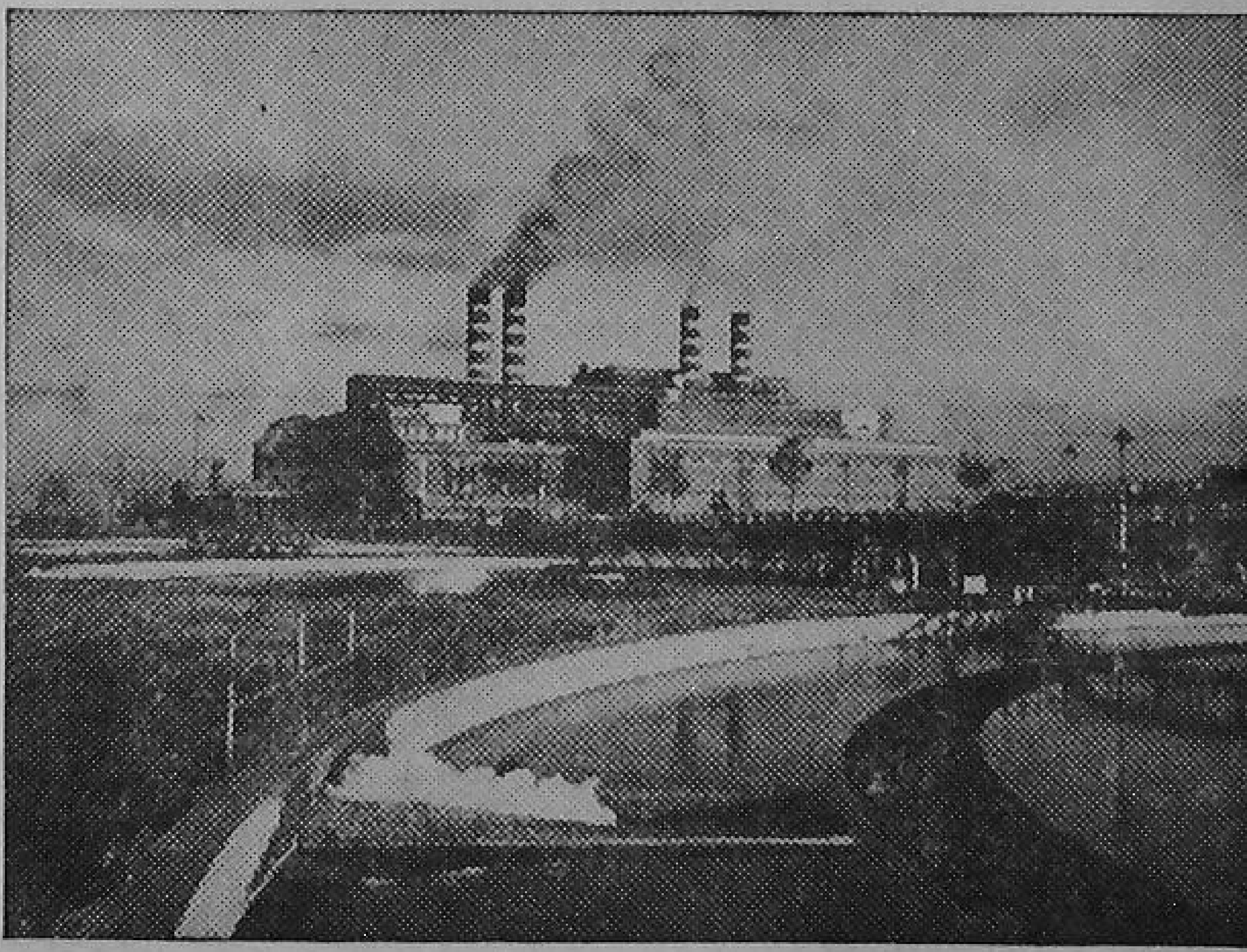
Programme For 1956-57

Taking into consideration huge expansion of the urban area of Greater Delhi, further strengthening of the Water Works, namely Intake Works at Wazirabad, Filtration at Chandrawal Pumping Mains and reservoirs at various points has been planned and the Programme has been spread over a period of five years. The capacity of the Filtration Plant is Proposed to be increased to 90 M. G. daily.

Sewage Disposal Works In Greater Delhi

The Sludge Digestion Plant to treat 4 lac. c. ft. of sludge has been installed at Okhla and the plant will start functioning by the close of the financial year. The work on the second stage extension of the Sludge Digestion and Gas production at Okhla has been started and good progress has been made. The plant is expected to function early next year.

Independent Sewage Treatment Plants for West of Delhi and also for north of Delhi have been planned and included in the proposals of the Second Five Year Plan. The work in both the plants will be taken in hand in the next year. The existing Sewage Treatment Plant at Okhla is also purposed to be strengthened. An additional Gravity Duct from Kilokri to Okhla is under construction and will be put into commission next year. The work on the construction of Twin outfall sewers from India Gate to Kilokheri and new sewer from Delhi Gate will be taken in hand as soon as permission of Railways is received to cross the Main Railway line near Hardinge Bridge.



WORLD'S LARGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Chicago's West-Southwest sewage treatment plant regarded as one of the seven Engineering wonders of the United States, has facilities for processing 900 million gallons of sewage-daily. This is one of three such plants comprising the Chicago Sewage Disposal System. The system has a combined capacity of processing the waste of a population of 4,230,000 persons, plus the industrial waste of an equivalent population of an additional 3,000,000 persons.

Housing In Second Five Year Plan

The period of the first five year plan witnessed the first steps in a national housing programme which will assume growing importance in future plans. This included a subsidised industrial housing scheme and a low income group housing scheme. Housing schemes for plantation labour and for labour in coal and mica mines were also implemented as part of the programme. These programmes are being substantially expanded during the second five year plan, in the course of which it is proposed to take up three new programmes, namely, rural housing, slum clearance and sweepers' housing and middle income group housing.

Against a total provision in the first plan of Rs. 38·5 crores, the second plan has allotted a sum of Rs. 120 crores which is distributed as follows :—

	(Rs. crores)
Subsidised industrial housing ..	45
Low income group housing ..	40
Rural housing	10
Slum clearance and sweepers' housing	20
Middle income group housing ..	3
Plantation housing	2
Total ..	120

Housing schemes for workers in the coal industry are financed from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund which is expected to provide over the five-year period about Rs. 8 crores. Housing schemes for mica and coal mines are the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, the other schemes being administered by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

In addition to these schemes, substantial housing programmes are undertaken by the Ministries of Rehabilitation, Defence, Railways, Iron and Steel, Production, Communications, Works, Housing and Supply, etc. State Governments and a certain number of local authorities also have their own housing programmes. It is estimated that during the first five year plan the Ministry of Rehabilitation provided 323,000 houses or tenements in urban areas and State Governments and Central Ministries, other than the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, about 300,000 units. **Including the other housing schemes mentioned above, public authorities provided during the first plan about 742,000 houses or tenements.** It is difficult to estimate the extent of private constructions. An enquiry carried out for the Taxation Enquiry Commission indicated that the total investment on urban housing during 1953-54 was about Rs. 125 crores. If this is taken as a kind of average for the five year period, and the average cost of a house is assumed to be about Rs. 10,000, it would appear that during the first plan about 600,000 units have been provided in the private sector. **Thus, during the first plan about 1·3 million urban houses were added.** In the nature of things, the estimate of private construction is liable to vary according to the assumptions which are made.

For housing programmes to be undertaken during the second five year plan the following targets have been adopted :

	Number of houses tenements.
Subsidised industrial housing	128,000
Low Income group housing	68,000
Re-housing of slum dwellers, including sweepers ..	110,000
Middle income group housing	5,000
Plantation labour housing ..	11,000
Total ..	322,000

Programmes undertaken by other Central Ministries, by State Governments and local authorities and those pertaining to coal mines labour are expected to provide 753,000 units, in addition to private construction, which has been reckoned for the second plan period at 800,000 units. **Thus, the total programme for the second plan envisages the construction of about 1·9 million units as compared to about 1·3 million during the first plan.**

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

The subsidised industrial housing scheme was at first approved for industrial workers governed by the Factories Act, but now includes also mine-workers other than those engaged in the coal and mica industries for whom there are separate schemes. Under the industrial housing scheme loans and grants are given by the Central Government to State Govts. and public authorities, to employers and to co-operatives of industrial workers. For one-room tenements, the maximum cost prescribed is Rs. 4,500 for multi-storeyed tenements in Bombay and Calcutta and Rs. 2,700 elsewhere. For two-roomed tenements the corresponding figures are Rs. 5,430 (now raised to Rs. 5,930) in Bombay and Calcutta and at other places Rs. 3,340 for single-storeyed tenements and Rs. 3,490 for double-storeyed tenements. For State Governments 50 per cent of the cost is given by way of loan and 50 per cent as subsidy; for co-operatives 50 per cent as loan and 25 per cent as subsidy; and for employers 37½ per cent as loan and 25 per cent, as subsidy. The period of repayments is 15 years in the case of employers and 25 years in other cases.

In the course of the first five year plan a total construction programme for 79,679 tenements was approved. Of these, 19,195 were planned for construction in Bombay, 21,709 in Uttar Pradesh, 5,629 in Hyderabad, 5,181 in Madhya Pradesh, 3,444 in Madhya Bharat and smaller numbers in other States. **The number of tenements completed before the end of the first five year plan is estimated to be about 40,000.** Out of the total number of tenements approved, 68,200 or about 85 per cent are being constructed by State Governments, 10,161 or about 13 per cent. by private employers, and 1,318 or 1·6 per cent. by co-operative societies of industrial workers. When the scheme was formulated a larger response was expected from employers and from co-operatives. This aspect of the scheme is under investigation and steps necessary for securing a greater response from employers and from co-operatives of industrial workers are being studied.

Low Income Group Housing

The low income group housing scheme, which was introduced towards the end of 1954, provides for the grant of long-term house building loans at a reasonable rate of interest to persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 6,000 per annum. Loans are given to individuals as well as to co-operatives whose members fulfil this condition. The assistance is restricted to 80 per cent. of the estimated cost of construction, including land, and is subject to a maximum of Rs. 8,000. The scheme also provides for loans to State

Governments at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. interest repayable in three years for acquisition and development of land by local authorities and its allotment to prospective builders. Local bodies, charitable institutions, hospitals, etc., can obtain assistance under this scheme for building houses to be let to their low paid employees or on hire purchase terms. **By the end of the first plan loans amounting to about Rs. 21.5 crores had been sanctioned for about 40,000 houses and for various land development schemes.** The low income-group housing scheme has tried to meet a widely felt need and large numbers of persons have sought to take advantage of it. However, on account of high land prices and the lack of suitably developed sites, progress in the construction of houses under the scheme has not been as rapid as was hoped for.

The provision of developed land on an adequate scale and at reasonable cost is crucial to the success of all housing programmes; for, besides low income group housing, sites have to be provided for private individulas, for co-operatives and for private business. Private construction, especially amongst people of small or moderate means is likely to make greater progress if developed sites can be made available by local authorities at low rates, which may be subject to appropriate conditions regarding re-sale. High land values and a general scarcity of plots are an important reason for the slow progress of housing in recent years, especially in towns which have grown rapidly. It would therefore, appear desirable to provide assistance to State Governments and local authorities for developing sites for sale to persons who have low incomes and wish to build houses their own use, whether or not they are applicants for loans under the specific low income group housing scheme which is being implemented. It is further suggested that a proportion of funds available under the scheme for low income housing might be used for land development on a planned basis, special attention being given to those towns where considerable congestion exists and to towns which are likely to develop more rapidly on account of development programmes to be undertaken during second five year plan. State Governments may examine in consultation with individual local authorities how far action can be pursued along these lines. Sites might also be developed for lease as distinguished for sale.

Rural Housing

The improvement of housing conditions in rural areas is a task of enormous dimensions. A large proportion of the 54 million houses in rural areas need to be rebuilt or substantially improved. Sooner or later, every village should have a plan which provides for wide streets with drains, proper spacing of houses, the location of community buildings and a playground for children. While the improvement of rural housing is an aspect of general rural development and there will be greater progress in housing as rural prosperity increases, there are certain directions in which specific action is called for. Such action may be on a small scale at first but can be readily extended in due course. In rural housing, the bulk of the materials employed are locally available, and fuller use can be made of them. There is considerable scope for voluntary

co-operative labour and local community action and, if the right approach is adopted from the beginning, fairly rapid progress can be achieved.

Increases in population has intensified the problem of congestion and additional sites are required almost everywhere. The worst exists in the case of scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes and artisans and, generally, among landless sections of the village population, although the problem is by no means confined to them. The housing conditions of under-privileged sections in village communities are often extremely bad and need urgent attention. Artisans live and work under conditions which are already a serious impediment to the adoption of improved techniques, besides being injurious to health. The traditional designs of houses in villages, even for sections of the population which are somewhat better off, do not provide for the minimum requirements of light, ventilation and drainage. In all villages the need for introducing improved methods of excreta disposal is being increasingly felt and the time has come for a large-scale effort in this direction. Finally, improved lay-outs for village abadis have to be introduced, both for new villages and for expansions of existing villages.

These are some of the principal tasks to be undertaken for bringing about better living conditions in villages, and in all of them a great deal can be done in the course of the second plan if various rural programmes are implemented at the district and village level in a co-ordinated manner with maximum co-operation from the people. **Improvement of rural housing has to be viewed, not as an isolated objective, dut as a part of the larger scheme of rural reconstruction,** which includes improvement of agricultural production, co-operative working in as many fields as possible, rural water supply, drainage, sanitation, village roads, welfare programmes for scheduled castes and other backward classes and programmes for providing more work and better living conditions for village artisans. During the second plan, resources have been allocated for these and other activities. As the rural community Programme succeeds and village communities assume larger responsibilities improvements in village housing conditions are to be expected, At this stage, what is required is that in each national extension and community project area and elsewhere, village communities should be made fully conscious of the housing problem and those steps which are urgent should be initiated, such as expansion of the village abadi, provision of sites and other assistance for Harijans and the various backward sections, adoption of better standards for houses constructed in the future and introduction of better lighting, ventilation and drainage in existing houses.

During the first plan, some steps have been taken towards the improvement of living conditions in villages. In community project areas. 58,000 rural latrines, 1,600 miles of drains and 20,000 wells have been constructed and 34,000 wells renovated, the corresponding figures in national extension areas being 80,000 rural latrines, 2700 miles of drains, 30,000 new wells and 51,000 renovated wells. **In national extension and community project areas, about 29,000 houses were constructed and about the same number reconditioned.** In a

number of states, brick kilns are being established in rural areas, in some cases through cooperatives. In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, 16 co-operative brick kilns were established in 1950-51; by 1954-55 the number had risen to 752, and in villages within easy reach of brick kilns, improved types of houses are being built to an increasing extent. In several States attempts are being made to improve housing conditions of Harijans through allotment of sites and formation of co-operative housing societies. At the Centre, the Ministry of works, Housing and supply has set up a Rural Housing Cell with the object of studying various problems in this field and evolving better designs, lay-outs and methods of construction and better utilisation of local materials.

Sri Swaran Singh,
Union Minister of Housing

A rural housing programme is necessarily in the nature of an aided self-help programme in which education and guidance play a large part. Assistance from Government will mainly be in the form of technical advice, demonstrations of model houses and model villages, provision of improved designs and lay-outs, pilot experiments relating to the uses of local materials, organisation of co-operative village programmes based on voluntary labour and, in some measure, provision of financial assistance, especially for Harijans and other backward classes. It would be desirable for every State to have a small technical unit in its Housing Department for evolving designs of houses and lay-outs suited to local conditions, and for studying possible uses for local materials. Further, the various agencies of Government which are concerned with one aspect or the other of rural Development should co-ordinate their efforts with one another and with the national extension service. In respect of Harijans and other backward classes extension workers should take steps to see that village cummunities try to provide free plots of land for house construction by landless agricultural workers. Wherever provisions for financial assistance exist, for instance, for improving housing conditions of Harijans and other backward classes and for setting up rural community workshops, co-operative societies should be constituted and mutual aid tems organised. Rural housing programmes on these lines can help not only to raise rural living standards but also to increase rural employment and bring about fuller utilisation of the available man-power resources.

Slum Clearance and Sweepers' Housing In Second Five Year Plan

The existence of slums in every large town is a matter of serious concern. During the past two or three years a fraction of slum dwellers have been moved out of their habitations as a result of the subsidised industrial housing scheme. But, on the whole the slum problem continues much as it was. Unless steps are taken to make it impossible for new slums to come into existence, the problem of slums will become even larger. For preventing the growth of slums there are two sets of measures to be taken: In the first place, municipal by-laws must be enforced with the utmost strictness. In the enforcement of municipal by-laws the support of enlightened public opinion should be mobilised and potential slums should receive immediate attention.

Secondly, master plans should be approved for every town, beginning with towns which are already large or have expanded much in recent years or are likely to grow rapidly in the next few years. For enforcing master plans local authorities should have the requisite powers to implement zoning schemes, control the use of land and prevent ribbon development. Where necessary, new authorities may be set up. In Delhi a special development authority has been recently constituted.

While action is taken to prevent the development of slums in the future, it is also essential to tackle the problems of existing slums. To a large extent there is no alternative to their demolition and clearance, but there may be cases where measures for improvement are feasible. Hitherto proposals for slum clearance have been held back because of three difficulties, namely, the high cost of acquisition of slums, the unwillingness of slum dwellers to move to distant places on account of the fear that their social and economic life will be dislocated, and the need for subsidising the construction of houses so that they can be let to slum dwellers at rates which they can afford to pay.

These aspects have been kept in view by the Central Government in evolving a new scheme for slum clearance and sweepers' housing for which a total provision of Rs. 20 crores has been made in the second Five Year Plan.

With the object of reducing the cost of acquisition of slums, which are disproportionately high at present, especially in the larger towns, it has been recommended that State Governments should take advantage of the provisions of Article 31 of the Constitution. Delays which occur in land acquisition proceedings should also be eliminated through appropriate modifications in the legislation.

Under the slum clearance and sweepers' housing scheme which is now to be implemented, State Governments are being asked to undertake social and economic surveys of their worst slum areas in the larger towns and to draw up phased programmes of slum clearance. The scheme is based on two main principles. The first principle is that there should be the minimum dislocation of slum dwellers and the effort should be to rehouse them as for as possible at or near the existing sites of slums, so that they may not be uprooted from their fields of employment. The second principle is that in the order to keep rents within the paying capacity of the slum dwellers, greater emphasis should be on the provision of minimum standards of environmental hygiene and essential civic amenities rather than on the construction of elabrorate structures.

Within the allocation made in the plan, it is proposed that the Central Government should provide 25 per cent of the cost as subsidy and 50 per cent. by way of loan repayable in 30 years, State Governments being required to find the remaining 25 per cent of the cost as subsidy from their own resources. It is proposed that wherever practicable, and especially where the rent paying capacity of the slum dwellers is extremely

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Government of India's Slum Clearance Scheme

Mr. P. S. Naskar, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, informed the Lok Sabha in reply to a question by a member, on May 30 that the Government of India have formulated a scheme for affording financial assistance, on a limited scale, to State Governments for the execution of slum clearance and slum improvement projects.

Mr. Naskar laid on the table of the House details of the scheme which is being circulated to the States, and said the clearance of slums was primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Local Bodies.

Two Principles

The scheme contemplates the grant of financial assistance by the Central Government to State Government for slum clearance, improvement projects. The two important principles on which the scheme is based are: (i) there should be them minimum dislocation of slum-dwellers, and efforts should be made to re-house them as far as possible at the existing sites of the slum and/or sites nearby, in order to ensure that they are not uprooted from their fields of employment; (ii) in order to keep down rents within the paying capacity of slum-dwellers, the emphasis should necessarily be laid more on provision of the minimum standards of environmental hygiene and essential services rather than on construction of any elaborate structures.

Re-Housing Standards

Wherever practicable and particularly where the rent paying capacity of slum-dwellers is extremely low, it is recommended that the States Governments and Local Bodies should provide each slum-dweller with a developed and demarcated plot of land and about Rs. 150 worth of building materials like *ballies* of proper length, roofing materials, etc., leaving it to the slum-dwellers to build huts of the prescribed pattern themselves on self-help basis under the technical guidence of State Governments. The scheme lays down the minimum amenities to be provided in each plot.

Where the above approach is not considered feassible (as for example in big cities where land is expensive and it is not desirable to have 'kuccha' construction in the heart of clean and built-up localities), and/or where the slum-dwellers can afford to pay higher rents, the State Governments/local bodies may construct houses/tenements with the prescribed minimum accommodation. The State Government/Local Bodies may, if they so desire, provide to them open plots and 'pucca' structures in the same town, depending on the rent paying capacity of the slum-dwellers.

The cost of slum-clearance improvement projects includes (i) the cost of acquisition of slum areas and their re-

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small, State Governments and local bodies should provide slum dwellers with developed and demarcated plots of land varying from 1000 to 1200 sq. ft. in area as well as limited quantities of building materials, leaving it to slum dwellers to build houses for themselves as far as possible on the prescribed pattern and under appropriate guidance on a self-help and mutual aid basis.

Standard costs of slum clearance and slum improvement projects have been worked out for the guidance of State Governments. The rehousing benefits to be provided under the scheme are intended for those slum families whose income does not exceed Rs. 250 per mensem in Bombay and Calcutta and Rs. 175 per mensem elsewhere. Families with higher incomes are to be encourged to take advantage of loans under the low income group housing and other schemes and it is also proposed that they shoud be given assistance in procuring land and some part of the land developed by States may be set apart for them. Since a large proportion of slum dwellers in most towns are sweepers, it is expected that under the new programme large numbers of sweepers will be able to move to new houses from their present habitations.

development on approved lines for 're-housing of slum-dwellers'; (ii) the cost of acquisition and development of alternative sites, if the existing sites are either not adequate for re-housigg all the slum-families involved or proposed to be utilised for other purposes; and (iii) the cost of providing essential services and/or, construction of pucca structures for slum-dwellers, as the case be on the lines indicated in the preceding paragraph.

Alternative Housing Sites

In cases where State Governments consider it assential to acquire existing slum-sites but decide to re-house the slum-dwellers at alternative sites and to use the existing slum-sites partly or wholly for other purposes, the cost of acquisition and development of the slum-sites in question will not be taken into account for the purpose of Central assistance under this scheme; the acquisition and development of such sites for other purposes should apparently be a paying proposition and the State Governments should find it possible to finance it from their own resources.

Loans and Subsidies

Central assistance to State Governments will be in the shape of loans and subsidies to the following extent : (i) 25 per cent of the approved cost of a project as subsidy, provided that the State Government concerned contributes an equal amount as a matching subsidy, from their own resources; (ii) 50 per cent of the cost as loan. (The approved cost for the purposes of financial assistance will be the standard cost given in preceding paragraph or the actual cost, whichever is lower).

The Central loan will carry the usual rate of interest and will be repayble in 30 annual equated instalments. The responsibility for repayment of loans rests on the State Governments, even though slum clearance projects may normally be executed through local bodies or other agencies approved by State Governments.

No financial assistance under the scheme is envisaged for rehousing of slum families whose income exceeds Rs. 250 per mensem in Bombay and Calcutta and Rs. 175 per month elsewhere. Slum families with an income higher than these ceilings, but not exceeding Rs. 500 per mensem, should be encouraged to avail of the loan assistance available under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme.

The families, if any, with an income even higher than Rs. 500 per mensem may be advised to avail of loan assistance under appropriate Housing Schemes, if any, of the State Governments or the Government of India.

The State Governments/Local Bodies will ensure that the plots/tenements are allotted only to bonafide and eligible slum familes, and provide adequate safeguards against sub-letting and transfer of the plots/tenements to persons for whom they are not intended. A number of general provisions are contained in the scheme.

Provision Of Amenities

State Governments should also immediately examine the question of controlling or reducing by law prices of land being acquired for public purposes of this kind. It is understood that the provision of schools, dispensaries and other amenities in these colonies will be made by local authorities themselves in the normal course, if these amenities do not already exist. The scheme is expected to be in force till the year 1960-61, though such changes as may be found desirable and necessary by Government will be made therein from time to time.

L.S.G. Ministers' Conference

The Central Committee of States Ministers of Local Administration will meet at Bombay on July 18 to consider, among other things, questions pertaining to the implementation of slum clearance schemes. At the last meeting of the State's Local Administration Ministers, it was suggested that the Centre should subsidise the expenditure on slum clearance schemes at least to the extent 50%.

Prime Minister's Interest In Slum Clearance Work

A high-powered committee was set up on June 8 under the Chairmanship of Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply; to expedite the slum clearance work in Delhi.

The appointment of the committee was one of the main decisions taken at the high-level conference called by the Prime Minister at his office to take stock of the slum clearance work in Delhi, started some time ago on his initiative.

It was generally felt at the conference that an officer on special duty should be appointed under the DDPA to look after slum clearance work only, and that the DDPA should have full powers to order demolition of any building in katras and other slum areas. The committee which consists of Mr. A. D. Pandit, Chief Commissioner, Delhi State, Dr. Yudhvir Singh, Health Minister, Delhi State, Mr. Venkatasubban, Deputy Secretary, Health Ministry, Mr. R. N. Agarwala, President of the DMC, Mr. C. B. Dubey, President of the NDMC, and a representative of the Union Law Ministry, held its first meeting on June 11.

The conference also agreed in principle to the creation of a slum service fund to meet *ad hoc* expenditure likely to be incurred by the agencies engaged in slum clearance work.

While addressing the conference, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for starting a social service campaign in katras and other slum areas where improvements are being carried out and certain amenities are being provided with a view to making the slum dwellers conscious of maintaining these amenities in good order. He felt this work could best be done by social organizations like the Bharat Sewak Samaj; he appealed to its leaders to concentrate more on this aspect of the work.

Committee's Recommendations

The seven-man high-powered committee, appointed to go into the legal and technical difficulties faced by various agencies at present engaged in slum clearance work in Delhi, has finalized its suggestions regarding the provisions to be incorporated in the proposed legislation.

The committee, in its meetings on June 11 and 12 accepted that there was need for a legal provision for entry of the rpresentatives of these agencies into private premises. At present the municipal and Improvement Trust staff cannot force entry into a katra against the wishes of the residents.

Difficulty has also been experienced in the past in realizing the expenses incurred by these agencies on improvements of such katras. The Municipal Committee had to go to the civil courts for this and that usually took a long time. To overeome it the committee has suggested that the proposed legislation should have a provision for the realization of such expenses on the same lines as arrears of land revenue.

The eviction of the present tenants of the katras and other slum areas and provision of alternative accommodation of such evictees should also be covered by the legislation, it was felt. In this connexion it was pointed out that at present there was no legal provision to shift tonga-drivers and people engaged in such other trades from the katras. The committee was of the opinion that such trades should be declared offensive under the proposed law.

The committee also felt that there should be some legal provision for the recovery of maintenance charges for the services to be provided in the slum areas.

The problem of compensation in case some katras were to be acquired also came up for consideration. The committee felt that there should be a provision in the proposed legislation similar to that provided in the Madras Act on slum clearance under which 12 months' rent had to be paid as compensation.

The suggestions of the committee will now be placed before a high-level conference, presided over by the Prime Minister himself, before being forwarded to the Union Law Ministry for the finalisation of the draft legislation.

The Law Ministry will then decide whether the legislation can be pushed through Parliament within a reasonable time or an ordinance should be issued for the interim period.

Progress of Slum Clearance In Delhi

At a meeting held in the office of the Prime Minister on May 5, 1956, the work of providing immediate improvements in the living conditions in the katras and slums was entrusted to three authorities, viz., Central Ministry of Health, Delhi Municipal Committee and Bharat Sewak Samaj, Delhi. Since then, the work of providing basic amenities in these katras has been going apace. The work in the 70 evacuee katras and 17 Improvement Trust katras entrusted to the charge of Delhi Improvement Trust is expected to be completed by October 1956.

The meeting, *inter alia*, suggested the following steps for providing some simple basic amenties in these katras :—

(a) Simple basic amenities like lavatories, improvement in drainage, provision of service drains, water supply and lighting should be provided as early as possible. It may not be possible to take in hand for this purpose all the 700 and odd katras which require improvements of this kind but a beginning in this direction should be made immediately by distributing the work as indicated below :

(i) Provision of these simple amenities in 72 evacuee katras should be taken in hand by the Ministry of Health. Two of these katras have since been withdrawn by the Rehabilitation Ministry.

(ii) Delhi Municipal Committee should take in hand as many katras as it can handle—say 100—which should include evacuee as well as private katras.

(iii) The Bharat Sewak Samaj, Delhi, should take in hand 15 evacuee as well as privately-owned katras.

(b) The allocation of the katras among the different authorities mentioned above should be made by joint consultation between the Central Health Ministry, the Delhi Development Provisional Authority, the Delhi Municipal Committee and the Bharat Sewak Samaj.

(c) The Delhi Development Provisional Authority will be the overall supervisory Authority for this work.

Before work could be commenced on the katras, a detailed survey of the katras had to be made. In the case of the Delhi Municipality, they had to issue notices under certain Sections of the Punjab Municipal Act before they could take action.

The Central Health Ministry placed all the evacuee katras incharge of the Delhi Improvement Trust who themselves had another 17 katras in which these basic amenities had to be provided. Out of 70 evacuee katras, the Improvement Trust have already completed survey of 61 and out of the 17 Trust Katras, survey of 9 has been completed. Work has already commenced in 12 of the katras and will commence in another 20 during the course of the next week.

Difficulties

The work of repair and providing amenities in the katras is naturally slow because of their non-accessibility to vehicular traffic and therefore bricks, cement and such other building materials have to be carried only by men or by pack animals.

Another reason for the slow progress of the work is the over-crowding in the katras. It has been found very difficult to open up court-yards, lanes, and repair the houses while the residents are still living there and in many cases the repair has to be done very cautiously lest it should endanger human lives.

There are also other formalities such as the financial sanction for the work, estimates for the work and normal procedure of checking up the estimates etc. The Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust was directed to commence the work in anticipation of such sanction. Conditions of living in some katras are so bad that in a number

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Slum Clearance In West Bengal

Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B. C. Roy, while presiding over a conference, which was attended by representatives of Calcutta Corporation, Calcutta Improvement Trust and of the State Government's departments concerned, held in Calcutta on June 23, announced that the West Bengal Government had finally decided to undertake legislation to overcome difficulties about clearance of slums in the city. The Central Government, he said, had agreed to advance 50 percent of the estimated expenditure involved in any slum clearance proposal as loan and 25% as subsidy. The remaining 25 per cent was to be subsidized by the State Government. No clear-cut scheme had yet been worked out, but according to an estimate, the total cost of a project covering all the bustees in Calcutta would be between Rs. 60 crores and Rs. 70 crores.

Six Lakh Bustee Dwellers

A spokesman of the Government thought that it might take two or three more Five Year Plan periods to tackle the problem completely **He said in Calcutta there were 4,000 bustees with a total population of 600,000.** The Government wanted to build three or four-storeyed buildings, after clearing the slums, to provide displaced people with accommodation at a rent within their means.

Land Acquisition

The proposed legislation, he added, would give the Government powers to acquire and develop land in the slum areas and construct buildings. A Bill was likely to be placed before the State Legislature next year. The Government might acquire necessary powers through an Ordinance to expedite matters.

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of them there are practically no lavatory facilities, complete absence of drains and elementary sanitation. In almost all of them, there are no water taps. Filth, squalor, dirt meet they eye wherever it is turned. In such surroundings the work of making the katras habitable is now proceeding. The works in all the 70 evacuee katras and 17 Improvement Trust katras are expected to be completed by October, 1956. This includes the 32 katras, where work will be completed by the middle of July, 1956. Out of these work has already commenced in the 12 katras and in the remaining 20 katras it is about to start.

D.M.C. Katras

The D.M.C. have first taken up 40 out of 100 katras. In these 40 they have completed all the formalities such as issue of notices etc. and they have started work in 5 of them. The work done by the D.M.C. is, however limited in view of legal complications to the following items only :—

(i) Provision of water-borne lavaroties where sewers exist and dry lavatories where there are no sewers.

(ii) Construction of drains and connecting them with the municipal sewers or municipal drains.

(iii) Levelling and paving of court-yards in such katras.

(iv) Provision of light points.

In the case of Delhi Improvement Trust, in addition to these, water taps are being provided, court-yards are being levelled and paved and all necessary repairs of houses are being carried out.

The Bharat Sewak Samaj have taken up 20 katras of which they have commenced work in only two of them.

Advisory Committee

The Delhi Development provisional Authority has appointed an Advisory Committee consisting of Ch. Brahm Prakash, Minister for Law and Development, Delhi State as Chairman and Shrimati Subhadra Joshi, M. P., Shri R. N. Agrawala, President, D.M.C., Delhi, Shri Brij Krishan Chandiwala of the Bharat Sewak Samaj and Shri A. V. Venkatasubban, Secretary, Delhi Development Provisional Authority; Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust and Deputy Secretary; Ministry of Health, as members.

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U.P.

Reorganisation of District Administration

Mr. K. K. Das, I. C. S., Reorganisation Commissioner of the Uttar Pradesh Government, who recently made a study of the distriction administration in Uttar Pradesh, is understood to have recommended that the District Magistrates should be relieved of much of their routine administrative work so that they are left free for development activities. The inquiry was made to suggest ways for toning up the administrative tmachinery and bringing about rationalisaion in the distribution of work.

Mr. Dass has submitted his report on the subject as far as it relates to the functioning of collectorates. The report has already been examined by senior administrative officers who were entrusted with the work by the Chief Secretary and some of the suggestions made by them have been incorporated in the report.

The reorganisation Commissioner has pointed out that the District Magistrates are overburdend with routine administrative work which can as will be handled by their juniors. He, therefore, suggested that the lower ranks of administrative services should be entrusted with more responsible work so that the District Magistrates could give more time and attention, to development activities.

Another suggestion made by the Reorganisation Commissioner is that the District Magistrates should not receive orders direct from every departmental head at the Secretariat but through some centralised channel with proper regard to priority. It was pointed out to the Reorganisation Commissioner by a District Magistrate that during one year he had received nearly 10,000 orders from different departmental heads, each demanding priority. Naturally the District Magistrate could not pay proper attention to every one of these orders.

The Reorganisation Commissioner has also suggested that the lower ranks of the collectorate staff when they reach the peak of their salary grades should be put in higher grades to give them proper incentive for increased work. He has also suggested other incentives for the lower staff for increasing it efficiency.

He has gone into details of every branch of work in the collectorates and made suggestions for increasing efficiency and bringing about economy.

This is the first report of its kind since 1911 and is considered to be the most comprehensive study of the administrative machinery at the district level.

Engineers And Administrators

The Chief Minister, Dr. Sampurnanand, while inaugurating the 22nd annual general meeting of the U. P. Engineers' Association in Lucknow on 28th April said that the society owed a lot to engineers who had been serving it since the very birth of man. The U. P. Government was fully conscious of their services to the State and looked forward with confidence and faith to their continued assistance in the battle against poverty, disease and allied evils.

Dr. Sampurnanand referred to the barriers that according to Mr. M. S. Bisht, President of the U. P. Engineers' Association, who welcomed him earlier, had come to exist to a certain extent between engineers and officers belonging to the administrative services. He remarked that while it was proper that people doing specialised work should have associations of their own, there was absolutely no ground for the existence of any barriers between them and officers doing another type of work. They had all the some end in view, namely the service of the people, and if there were any walls that separated then it was time these were pulled down.

The Chief Minister, also referred to Mr. Bisht's statement that a certain amount of frustration had crept into the ranks of engineers, particularly junior ones, on account of their inferior status as compared to brother officers in the administrative services, and remarked that in the past when the country was under foreign domination, administrative officers, who

were entrusted with the job of maintaining law and order, did indeed occupy a more privileged position and the existing differentiation between them and others was a relic of the old days.

But, he added, with the gradual strengthening of democracy and evolution of the Welfare State this distinction was bound to go and as time passed the law and order machinery would inevitably recede into the background yielding the place of privilege to services that were directly concerned with the task of development. He asked the engineers to look to the future and not remain chained to the past and to get rid of any mood of frustration that might be gripping them.

Charge Against P. S. C. Member

The Chief Minister, Dr. Sampurnanand, has, through a statement issued on July 2 categorically refuted the suggestion made recently by Sri Genda Singh, leader of the opposition in the U. P. Assembly, that a Member of the Public Service Commission Mr. Radha Krishna Agarwal bad taken part in canvassing for the Congress candidate at the Hardoi by-election. After giving details of the incident, the Chief Minister regretted that the leader of the Opposition had failed to withdraw his unfounded remarks publicy. He cancluded:

"The conduct and good name of everyone holding a position of responsibility should be above suspicion. This is particularly true of members of the Public Service Commission. To cast a grave reflection on the conduct of such a person without any adequate enquiry and to drag his name down into the arena of party politics cuts at the very root of democracy.

"I am sorry that any member of the U. P. Legislature, even though he happens to be a member of the Opposition, should have acted in the manner Sri Genda Singh has chosen to adopt."

Society Reeking With Corruption

Mr. Purushottam Dass Tandon, M. P. and former Congress President, speaking in Allahabad on June 27, said that society was reeking with corruption. Engineers and Overseers and others were corrupt. Many of the traders and industrialists were cheats. They had acquired their wealth through deceitful means, Mr. Tandon added.

Vindhya Pradesh

Enquiry Into Financial Irregularities

The Lieute-Governor of Vindhya Pradesh, Mr. Thirumal Rao, has appointed Mr. K. Ishwara Dutt, till recently Accounts Officer, Planning and Development Department, Kurnool, to investigate the financial working of commercial and semi-commercial departments of the State Government involving large outlay, expanditure and advance of public funds. A Government notification said that Mr. Dutt's appointment had been made in view of the "serious financial irregularities involving defalcation of public funds" which had come to light in several departments of the State Government. Mr. Dutt will function under the joint administrative control of the Finance Secretary and Secretary to the Lieut-Governor.

Hindi will not Have Privileged Position

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, replying to a civic address present to him by the Kancheepuram Municipal Council on May 30, assured South Indians that Hindi would not be imposed upon them. In fact, no language would be forced down the throat of another linguistic group. He advised the people of the North to learn at least one South Indian language. He said that Government of India accorded equal recognition to all the 14 languages listed in the Constitution. As Hindi was understood by the largest single group of people, the Government had chosen that language for national purposes. This did not mean that Hindi had been given a privileged position. All languages would be allowed to develop freely and the Union Government would assist the State Governments in this direction.

Public Administration & Party Organisation

Prime Minister's Views

This Prime Minister, addressing the North Zone Congress workers' conference, which began in Narora in Bulandshahr district (U. P.) on June 16, said **an eminent authority on public administration, who had recently visited the country, had in his report listed India among the 12 best administered countries in the world.**

Loose Talk About Corruption

Mr. Nehru said there was much talk of corruption. But the people who did this did not relize that by constant talk about corruption they had created an impression that corruption was rampant in the country and had thus vitiated the atmosphere. In China in the beginning, there had been reports that corruption had been stamped out. The people did not talk of corruption. All of a sudden they had heard, after two or three years, about an anti-corruption drive. Action was more effective in that atmosphere.

Referring to the political parties in India, Mr. Nehru said most of them were playing a negative role.

Parliamentary Democracy

Replying to a question whether he thought that parliamentary democracy was suitable to Indian conditions and if not what changes should be introduced in the system, Mr. Nehru said that in a way parliamentary democracy presented difficult problems even in countries like the U.K. but he was of the view that the system of parliamentary democracy was basically a good system as against authoritarianism.

Party and Government

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing the North Zone Congress workers' conference at Narora, Bulandshahr, on June 17, said that Congressmen had to follow a middle path in regard to the relationship between the party in power and the day-to-day administration of the country—a compromise between the systems followed in the U.K. on the one hand and in Russia and China on the other.

Mr. Nehru said it would be difficult to frame rigid rules on the problem of co-ordination between the Congress and the Government. In countries like the U.K., the Conservative Party or the Labour Party did not have much connection with the administrative machinery. In countries like Soviet Russia and China, on the other hand, the Communist Party itself was the Government.

He said that by following the middle path the Congress Party could exercise considerable influence on the Government without disturbing democratic conventions and procedures. Mr. Nehru said Congress offices at all levels should function in such a manner that people had full faith in their sanse of fairness and justice. With the change in the world due to advances in technology and science, ideology was also affected. Any political party if it had to live in the new conditions must be conscious of the changes and fit in itself accordingly.

Salaries of Govt. Servants

In reply to a question, the Prime Minister said that the scale of salaries of Government servants, with certain exceptions, was more or less the same as the one fixed at Karachi in 1931. Existing scales were in reality raduced to a much lower figure partly because of a higher price index and partly because of higher taxes.

Industrial Management Service

A Special Board is being constituted with the Cabinet Secretary as Chairman to select personnel for the new industrial Management Service to be created for efficient running of public enterprises. Secretaries to the various Ministries, entrusted with the task of running the State enterprises, would be members of the Board. It is estimated that at least 200 qualified officers would be required to man the enterprises. The Ministry of Home Affairs will (as in the case of other administrative services) be in charge of recruitment for the Industrial Management Service and the Union Public Service Commission would not come into the picture, as the service would be a specialised one and it is felt that the delay involved in the recruitment through the UPSC should be avoided. It is proposed to recruit people from the existing public enterprises as well as from outside. A regular cadre for the service may be created and the salaries may range from about Rs. 350 to Rs. 2,750 a month.

Personnel for Industrial & Economic Requirements

Mr. K. C. Reddy, Production Minister, said in Bengalore on May 31 that Government of India will soon set up an organisation in the Planning Commission to tie up the industrial and economic requirement of the country with the personnel available; so that perfect co-ordination could be effected between the two. He added that it would be in the nature of a bureau, and would go into the needs of both the public and private sector in the country.

Officers' Intrest in Firms

A circular issued by the Ministty of Home Affairs says that whenever a proposal arises for the award of a contract or exercise of patronage in favour of any firm in which a son or daughter or a depandant of an officer is employed, this fact should be declared by the officer concerned. He should thereafter desist from dealing with the case himself. A recommendation should then be made that the case should be decided by another officer of equivalent or superior standing.

The Home Ministry had alredy issued certain instructions regarding the employment of sons and near relations of officers of the Government of India in private firms which enjoy Government patronage.

Employment From Private Industry

The Union Home Ministry, it is understood, has issued instructions that no person drawn from a private industrial firm and having a lien on his previous post will henceforth be employed in a Government department dealing with private industry, either on a token salary or as a fully paid officer. The Home Ministry has stated that it would be wrong in principle to have in Government departments, which deal with private industry, officers who are themselves permanent employees of private firms, since such connections can give rise to suspicion, even though it might be unfounded, about the officer's independence and impartiality.

The system of honorary appointment of persons drawn from private industry was adopted during the war and continued for some time even thereafter. The Home Ministry has now urged that a review of past appointments should also be made with a view to their termination as early as possible.

Tax Structure In Other Countries

Three officials of the Central Board of Revenue have left for the U. S. A., Sweden and Japan, respectively, to study the system of taxtes on wealth and capital gains and other direct taxes obtaining in those countries. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. K. Roy, will also be visiting all these three countries and Britain for the same purpose. The Central Government has to raise an additional Rs. 225 crores by way of taxation for implementing the second Plan. Prof. Kaldor, a British economist, who was asked to investigate the Indian tax structure in the light of the revenue requirements of the second Plan, suggested four taxes apart from the existing income-tax. They are: a tax on capital gains, an annual tax on capital, personal expenditure and on gifts, It is also to study how these taxes are levied and collected that the present team is visiting these four countries.

O & M Survey Of Income-Tax Department

One of the important recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, 1953-54, was that "a small committee should go into the 'Organisation and Methods' of the Income-tax Department. The Commission had recommended that problems of training,

Enquiry Demand

The Lok Sabha on May 25 inconclusively dtscussed a private member's resolution demanding the appointment of a seven-member committee to inquire into the working of the Incom-Tax Department. The resolution sponsored by Mr. H. V. Kamath (P.-S.P.) required the committee to suggest measures for improving the efficiency of the Department, leading to quick assessment and better results in revenue collections. Mr. Kamath quoted the observations made by the Varadachari Income-Tax Investigation Commission and said that there ware "myriads of instances" to show that the efficiency of the Department was at a "very low ebb". "Unless something is done to improve the effieiency of the Department, I am afraid that more than Rs. 200 crores, which has been mentioned as possible amount of evesion in the report of Dr. Kaldor, might be a loss to the exchequer", he said. Mr. U. M. Trivedi (Jan Sangh) said that evasion of income-tax was going on a large scale. Income-tax officers were unable to cope with even a tenth of the work given to them. There were also strong reasons to believe that they were not discharging their duties properly. Prof. D. C. Sharma (Congress) said that the whole Income-tax Department should be "reconditioned" and the officers from the lowest to the highest should be trained properly to discharge their responsibilities.

including training in public relations and of improvement in the collection of statistical material should also be carefully examined. The Government of India, having accepted the recommendations ; set up a special unit in the Central Board of Revenue to undertake an 'O & M' survey of the Department. This unit is under the direct charge of an officer of the status of a Member of the Central Board of Revenue, who keeps in close touch with the Director, Organisation and Methods Division, Cabinet Secretariat.

Mr. Indrajit Singh, who has been in-charge of the O & M survey of the Department, in an article, contributed in the July-Sept. 1955 issue of the *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, recalled that the only previous enquiry into the organisation and personnel of the Indian Income-tax Department was undertaken in 1945-46.

Disquieting Features

On such preliminary examination as the Taxation Enquiry Commission could make, it was evident that certain disquieting features existed in the management of the Department which required a detailed investigation. One such feature was the continued accumulation of arrears over the last few years. The arrears of assessment increased by 58.8 percent during the year ended 1st April, 1955, and those of appeals before the Appellate Assistant Commissioners by 150 percent as compared to the position on the 1st April, 1948. The latter formed, on the 1st April, 1955, 125 percent of the annual average intake of appeals. Translated into commercial terms, this meant that in the Income-tax Department we have a business concern in which in addition to an average of 9,00,000 bills to be sent out every year, 6,00,000 old bills are awaiting preparation ; and of those already issued, 1,00,000 are under adjudication. Against an average annual incoming of Rs. 160 crores, the outstanding collections of the Department amount to Rs. 200 crores with

about 20 percent of the sum as irrecoverable. It was, therefore, not without justification that the average citizen entertains doubts regarding the business-like conduct of Government Departments, Mr. Indrajit Singh said.

The present situation in the Department was ascribed by departmental witnesses to shortage of staff, particularly of trained personnel and to the enormous growth of the organisation during World War II and after, for which previous preparation could not have been made. Trained staff cannot obviously be obtained to order; it takes about 4 to 5 years to shape a competent officer out of raw recruits to the Service or even from men promoted from within the ranks of the Department. The Taxation Enquiry Commission were, therefore, of the view that a better use should be made of the existing resources of manpower by a careful 'work study'. The Commission further observed that there was lack of suitable office accommodation and equipment and stationery in the income-tax offices, as also absence of methods of work and organisation. The Commission had also recommended that the Central Board of Revenue should impress upon the officers and the staff of the Department the value of good public ralations—the general deportment and behaviour of presonnel towards assessees, amenities in the from of waiting rooms, etc. and consideration for their convenience in the matter of granting adjournments, and the like. In short, the contents and sequence of work should be re-defined and the method and equipment improved by the application of techniques ofwork study so that trained staff could be deployed, so to say, strategically in order to make for optimum efficiency.

The objective of the present O & M enquiry were, therefore, to eliminate condition that lead to a chronic state of arrears of work; to increase the ability of the Department to prevent loss of revenue; and to enable the Department to function in the best traditions of public service, having due regard to the genuine grievances of the tax-payers.

Ministers Under-Assessed

Ministers and certain other dignitaries of the Central Government were being under-assessed for purposes of Income-tax, according ro the Central Civil Audit Report for 1953-54 presented to the Lok Sabha on May 23. The report questions the legality of an executive instruction issued by the Central Board of Revenue to the effect that the value of the perquisites of rent-free accommodation should be restricted to 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent of the employee's salary for the purpose of Income-tax, according as the accommodation is furnished or unfurnished. It points out that after the amendment of the Income-tax Act last year, it is no longer permissible to exclude the value of free water and electricity supplied by an employer to an employee in the computation of assessable income or to limit the value of free quarters to 10 per cent of the nominal salary. The report says that the effect of the executive instruction is that a Minister is assessed only on a total income of Rs. 30,375 whereas his true total income, inclusive of the value of perquisites such as the cost of water-supply, electricity, rental value of refrigerators, etc. comes to Rs. 35,172 on an average. "The continued application of the executive instruction is, therefore, on the one hand, resulting in loss of revenues to the State and on the other in giving extra legal benefit to a class of assessees", the report says.

Amritsar Improvement Trust

Working In 1955–56

Since its resuscitation the Amritsar Improvement Trust has confined its activities to the re-development of the areas of the city damaged during the civil disturbances in 1947. It has framed about 20 schemes and proposals for nearly a dozen more are nearing finalisation. Between them these schemes have covered all the major damaged localities, says the Annual Administration Report of the Trust for the year 1955-56.

So far the Trust had confined its activities to the walled city. The areas outside the city walls are mostly covered by the Town Planning Schemes of the Municipal Committee. Now that the Trust has practically completed the planning of the damaged areas inside the city walls, it was proposed to devote increasing attention to the planning of the areas outside.

Government Delays

Dr. D. N. Ahluwalia, Chairman of the Trust, in the course of his general remarks on the Annual Administration Report for 1955-56, says there was much delay in securing Government sanction to the Trust schemes. The Trus* also found it difficult to comply with the Government's instructions issued during the year that the schemes should be accompanied by detailed plans and estimates, in so far as the schemes under the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Act were concerned. The Trust schemes are also now to be scrutinised by two more authorities, namely, the Chief P.W.D. Engineers of Building and Roads and Public Health, in addition to its scrutiny by the Provincial Town Planner and in the Secretariat.

Simpler Procedure for Scrutiny

Dr. Ahluwalia has suggested that some simpler machinary should be devised for the scrutiny of the Trust schemes to avoid delay. It has been suggested that the Trust may be permitted to submit only tentative estimates at the time of application for sanction to a scheme. After the sanction was received and before works were started, the Trust should prepare the detailed plans and estimates and obtain the approval of the authority appointed by the Government to give technical sanctions to these detailed plans and estimates.

As regards smaller schemes estimated to cost Rs. 50,000 or less, the Trust should be authorised to accord sanction, both administrative and technical.

Since May, 1955, the Trust was experiencing great difficulty in obtaining possession of evacuee land required for its schemes. Previously all the evacuee land had vested in the Custodian General, Evacuee Property, and could be compulsorily acquired for the Trust. Since May, 1955, all the evacuee properties have been acquired by the Indian Government and as such these properties could not be acquired under the Land Acquisition Laws of the State.

Slum Clearance

The Trust had made no progress in regard to slum clearance. As reported in the previous year, the Trust had prepared two slum clearance schemes and submitted them to the State Government with the request for financial assistance. No reply had been received during the year under review.

There was acute housing shortage in the city. A vary much large number of houses were still required to be constructed under the subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme and the Low Income Group Housing Scheme to mitigate the hardships of housing shortage.

Finances

The year 1955-56 opened with a balance of Rs. 7,92,423. The income of the Trust during the year was Rs. 8,73,821 and the toial expenditure Rs. 10,40,523. A sum of Rs. 3,00,000 was received as loan from the State Government for the execution of various Trust schemes. No Government grant was received during the year.

Municipal Contribution

For the last three years the Amritsar Municipal Committee had not been paying its 2 percent statutory contribution on its gross income payable to the Trust under section 68 of the Punjab Town Improvement Act. The State Government, to whom the matter had been referred, had now given their decision that this contribution should be paid by the Municipal Committee on its annual gross income including income from its Electricity Department.

Dr. Ahluwalia said the financial resources of the Trust had to be very greatly augmented if it was to properly discharge its responsibilities as the chief planning authority of the premier city of the State.

At the end of the year the Trust consisted of seven members including the Chairman, Dr. D. N. Ahluwalia, who has been re-appointed as Chairman for a further period of two years with effect from March 23, 1955.

Town & Country Planning

The Chairman of the Trust continued to be a member of the Committee to examine and prepare a draft of the Town and Country Planning for the State. No meeting of the Committee, however, was held during the year under review.

Mr. D. D. Kapila, Secretary of the Trust, relinquished charges of his post on February 24, 1956, and the post had remained vacant since then. Difficulties continued to be experienced in the recruitment of technical staff. The Trust Engineer resigned on January 17, 1956, and no new appointment had been made since then.

The offices of the Trust continued to be located in a rented premises till January 31, 1956, when these were shifted to its own new building.

Delhi Development Authority: Large-Scale Demolition

Demolition of unathorized constructions in the controlled areas of Delhi will be resumed in July. The Delhi Development (provision) Authority will take up those constructions first which had been put up after April 1, 1956. Most of them will be damolished. The Authority is likely to regularize all buildings constructed between November 11 and March 31 this year without permission of the Authority but according to building plans approved by the local bodies concerned.

The Authority will have a separate police squad to preserve law and order on the occasion of such demolitions.

Last March the Authority suspended its demolition operation following recourse to legal action and representations to higher authorities by some of the affected persons. The Authority has so far issued 1,915 notices to owners of unauthorized buildings directing them to show cause why their houses should not be demolished. It has demolished about 30 houses.

Over 35,000 houses have been constructed without permission at considerable cost in nearly 100 colonies which have sprung up within a radius of seven miles of Delhi and New Delhi during the last eight years.

An estimated number of over 1,000 applications have been received by the Authority seeking appoval of building plans.

New Township At Badrinath Puri

The township of Badrinath Puri in Uttar Pradesh, an important centre of pilgramage for Hindoos, is to be shifted to a new site to protect it, from the danger of being wiped out by avalanches.

The new site selected by the State Town Planner is about half a furlong from the temple and is connected with the temple side with a bridge at Kabutar Shila. Low hills and valleys on the foot of the mountain on this side will offer to it natural protection against avalanches.

The danger to the township of Badri Nath Puri had created a problem for the State Government and U. P.'s Town Planner, Sri K. N. Misra, was specially sent to Badri Nath in the last week of May to study the situation and select a safe spot for a new township.

It may be recalled that in 1948 a big avalanche wiped out nearly 70 houses at Badri Nath Puri. Another avalanche in March, 1952, destroyed more than 50 houses creating considerable panic among the people.

Earlier, a team of geologists was also sent by the Central Government which, in its report, suggested that since the present town was in danger of being wiped out by avalanches, a new township should be planned on a safe spot.

The new township, which will be constructed in phases, will have about 150 houses in the first phase, 50 for the staff and guests of the Badrinath Temple Committee and the remaining 100, to be constructed by the Pandas for providing shelter to pilgrims.

Besides a shopping centre, the new township will also have a hospital, hotels, dharamshalas, two *kirtan* halls and guest houses.

With a view to enabling larger number of pilgrims to pay their homage to the deity at the same time, the State Town Planner has also suggested certain modifications in the existing temple for its enlargement without interfering with the actual shrine chamber.

Madras Trust Slum Clearance Plans

Madras City Improvement Trust on Jnne 29 approved the proposals of its Chairman, Captain D. Gnanaolivu, submitted to the Government in regard to the requirements of the Trust under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme of the Union Government, during the second Five-Year Plan period.

The Trust also ratified the Chairman's application to the State and the Union Governments for funds to improve the slums south of the Cooum in Madras city on half-grant half-loan basis, year by year, for five years during the second Plan period.

The Madras City Improvement Trust has selected sixty of the worst slums among the 128 south of the Cooum in Madras which are to be improved at a total cost of about Rs. 1·5 crores.

The Trust has now been asked to put up detailed proposals for improving the ten slums on Government lands during 1956-57. The Chairman has submitted to the Government that Rs. 7,000 is required for temporary additional staff to conduct social and physical survey and to draw up detailed plans and estimates for about Rs. 36 laks.

24-Hour Water Supply For Bombay

The 24-hour water supply for greater part of south Bombay from June 16 and to the rest of the city from June 23, announced by the Municipal Commissioner Mr. P.R. Nayak, did not materialise, causing much discomfiture to the inhabitants. The Municipal Commissioner had made clear that only ground floors will benefit by the 24-hour supply and that there will be regulated low-pressure supply throughout the day besides high-pressure supply at certain hours in the morning and evening.

The new scheme, the Commissioner had said, aimed at an equitable supply to all parts of the city. An adequate supply, however, will not be possible until the Rs. 7.5 crore plan for constructing additional storage facilities in different parts of the city were completed.

Commenting on the initial failure of the round-the-clock supply scheme, the Commissioner said it was something unimagineable for the citizens to expect a 24-hour high-pressure supply of water, even if the Vaitarna scheme were completed.

Mr. Nayak attributed the scarcity of water in buildings to over-crowding. In the 1941 census there were 14,89,000 citizens in Bombay City. The figures for 1951 were 23,29,000. The number of buildings constructed in the ten years, however, was negligible.

At the Corporation's meeting on June 25, the Commissioner told the councillors that the plan for a 24-hour supply of water at a low pressure, which had received a "temporary setback", would now be gradually introduced. He was extremely sorry that many people had been put to inconvenienee on June 23 and 24. He told the House that the 24-hour low pressure supply scheme had not been abandoned. In view of what had happened in G ward, the authorities would proceed "cautiously".

Rs. 2 Crores Water Supply Schemes For Bombay

At a recent meeting of the Board of Health, 43 water supply and drainage schemes, costing about Rs. 2 crores, were approved for Bombay State. 35 of these are water supply schemes, 7 are drainage schemes, and the remaining one relates to septic tank latrines.

NDMC Water Charges Go Up

The New Delhi Municipal Committee on June 22 decided to raise the rate of water in the area lying in its jurisdiction by four annas per 1,000 gallons on consumption above 10,000 gallons a month and by eight annas over consumption above 25,000 gallons per month. The rate for water supply up to 10,000 gallons will remain unchanged at annas eight per 1,000 gallons. The step has been taken on the advice of junior vice-president, Mr. Maheshwar Dayal, to check excessive use of water by the public and with a view to ensuring that everybody consumes only the required quantity of water. In an explanatory note, Mr. Maheshwar Dayal pointed out that as there was an acute shortage, water did not go beyond ground floors of building which had more than one storey during the peak hours. He, therefore, favoured action in the shape of higher rates by the NDMC to tackle the problem of water scarcity.

He felt that the average family would not be affected by the surcharge as its consumption was generally below 10,000 gallons per month. About 75% people were in the unaffected category.

The NDMC agreed to refer the matter of exemption from surcharge in regard to ice factories, dairies, dhobi ghats and piaos to the Electricity and Water Supply Sub-Committee.

Prosecution of Water Board Officials

On a criminal complaint filed by Mr. S. K. Oberoy, a resident of New Delhi,

alleging that as a result of contaminated drinking water supplied in November, he suffered from jaundice, Mr. Hanuman Prasad, a New Delhi magistrate, ordered the issue of processes against the Joint Water and Sewage Board of Delhi and its two officials under Section 269 IPC calling upon them to appear before him on July 4. The complainant further alleged that the "accused" had acted negligently in supplying contaminated water to the residents of New Delhi in November.

Madurai Water Shortage

Madurai, the temple city of the South, was in the grip of a severe water shertage in June unprecedented in the last 25 years. The present supply of protected drinking water to the city's 400,000 population is less than one-third of the normal supply of about 3,500,000 gallons per day.

Ground-Water Survey

The Geological Survey of India in collaboration with the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture has completed the first stage of the world's greatest ground-water exploration programme to examine the groundwater resources of 16 areas covering a large part of India. Exploratory drilling under this project has recently been completed in the Narmada valley, Madhya Pradesh, where 35 boreholes with an average depth of 500 ft. were drilled. As a result of these studies in the Narmada valley, a potential sustained groundwater, yield of at least 10.5 million gallons per day or about 7,100 acre feet for an irrigation season of six months has been assured. Work on the programme began in January, 1955.

Checking Flow of Sullage Into Jamuna

Dr. Yudhvir Singh, Delhi's Minister of Health, on June 25 formally switched on one of the pumping sets in the newly installed sludge-pumping station near Nigambodh Ghat, thus ending the flow of sullage into the Jamuna near Qudsia and Nigamgodh Ghats through the three open storm-water drains. The new pumping, station, which has been installed at an approximate cost of Rs. 8 lakhs, is in addition to another sludge-pumping station already in existence on the site. Delhi Municipal Committee has contributed Rs. 6 lakhs and the rest has been shared between the Notified Area Committees of Civil lines and Red Fort. The proposal to set up this additional sludge-pumping station was first mooted in 1948, when sullage started flowing into the Jamuna through storm-water drains following a sudden and unprecedented increase in Delhi's population after partition. The sewerage system of the Capital was inadequate to meet the demands of the increased population.

Cleaner Jamuna Waters

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yudhvir Singh said that Jemuna would have cleaner water for the bathers at the ghats. The three main sludge-water drains, which had so far been emptying themselves into the river, would now be sealed at their mouths and their water diverted to the pumping station.

The Minister also referred to the proposal to instal another big sludge-pumping station near Coronation Pillar and said that would pump out the sullage water of the Najafgarh drain, ending the danger of the Jamuna waters being polluted again near Wazirabad waterworks.

The sullage water of the three storm-water drains will now be diverted to the storage tanks in the sludge-pumping stations at Nigambadh Ghat, and from there it will be pumped out to a reservoir outside Delhi Gate to be taken to Kilokhri for ultimate disposal. But as the laying of the sewer connecting the Delhi Gate reservoir with Kilokhri has not yet started, the sullage watet will, for the time being, be transferred to open drains for disposal into the Jamuna. The problem of contamination of water near Okhla waterworks will, therefore, still continue.

U. P. Chief Engineer To Study Water and Sewage Plants in U. S. A.

Mr. R. D. Varma Chief Engineer, Local Self-Government Department, U.P. who has been awarded a Rockfeller

(*Continued on next page*)

Indictment Of Calcutta's Water Supply

A comprehensive report on the working of the Water Works Department of Calcutta Corporation is now under consideration of the Special Committee, appointed by the Corporation following an outbreak of Cholera epidemic in Kidderpore area last year, reportedly due to contamination of filtered water supply. The report states that most of the machinery of the pumping station at Pulta had almost become a harbour for the growth of weeds, unhealthy deposits and even worms, as a result of which the people of Calcutta were daily taking "a nice natural soup of vegetables and small organisms in the name of filtered water."

It was, indeed, a matter of shame that in a city like Calcutta, the report pointed out, the quality of filtered water was such that people were advised by medicalmen to boil the filtered water before drinking the same and that the people have to depend upon the doctors' syringes to guard against water-borne diseases like cholera and typhoid etc.

The present deteriorated condition of water mains and submains, the alarming conditions of pumping arrangements, pre-settling tanks, filtered beds etc., was not mainly due to want of necessary men and meterials but due to inefficient handling of the previous administration, poor knowledge in modern water works engineering, apathy and wilful negligence of the executives. The present deplorable condition of the Department was the outcome of the bad administration in the past.

Pipes of filtered water mains were stocked for years together in Corporation yard, the report added, without their ends being capped or plugged, allowing the rain water with sufficient quantity of surface washings to enter and remain inside the pipes for unlimited period, allowing vegetable growths inside the pipes, allowing the pipes to be used by small creatures as their shelters. Due to the above reasons, the inside portions of the new pipes became a refuge to all sorts of bacteria, and coated with unwanted deposits.

The report pointed out that the Department did not sterilize at all the service mains from which the consumers actually draw water and in case of reserve mains it was done in a most haphazard and unscientific manner. The Department did not have any suitable plant and accessories for proper hygienic treatment to be done scientifically. Recent bacteriological research had definitely established the need for effective sterilisation of reserve and service mains before and after laying.

The work of night inspections, the report said was nothing but a farce. If in houses pipes and fittings were allowed to remain in much deleviorated condition there was a chance of leakage resulting in contaminations of supply not only in the premises but also the distribution systems.

(*Hindustan Standard*)

(*Continued from previous page*)

foundation Travel Grant for a three-month study tour abroad will leave for U. S. A. on August 1.

Mr. Varma will be in the United States for six weeks during which period he will visit water and sewage plants in Boston, Baltimore, Cincinnate and California and have consutlation with engineers at Harward and M. I. T. Besides visiting the Public Health Service Training and Research Centre, he will devote some time in California to be study of a variety of conditions regarding sewage irrigation, use of sewage for fertilizer and modern methods regarding treatments of algae.

The study of the latest types of water plants in Jamaica (British West Indies) and the regional scheme for small villages and modern water and disposal plants in Puerto Rico is also included in his programme. In United Kingdom, Mr. Verma will spend most of his time with various Water and Sewage Boards to study water and sewage undertakings there.

Before returning to India, he will visit Holland Germany and Switzerland to study the latest practices in sanitary engineering as well as some manufacturing works in these countries.

Manufacture of Water Meters In India

By R. K. Singh,

Engineer Manager, Government Precision Instruments Factory, Lucknow.

Water Meters are being manufactured in India for the first time by the State sponsored Government Precision Instruments Factory, Lucknow. The Factory was established in the year 1950 and went into production in the year 1951.

In the preliminary stage, a few German technicians were brought out to assist in the setting up of the factroy, but the factory is being managed now entirely by Indians.

The present Inferential Dry Dial Type water meters have been developed in the Factory entirely to suit the Indian conditions and can be used for metering supplies available from all Water Works in this country. A constant endeavour has been maintained in the field of research and experimentation for improving the quality of product on one hand and reducing the cost on the other.

For a precision industry to run on commercial line, a big problem has been of training technical and account personnel. With the advancement of this type of Industry in the country, appreciable number of such trained personnel were lost by the Precision Factory. But as it was a question of National interest, no problems were created for those who wanted to join other factories in Private or Public sector for better prospects. The training scheme has, however, been intensified further.

A team of highly trained and devoted staff has been built up and the production has increased from year to year. The Government Precision Instruments Factory has been running on profit after allowing all the overhead charges.

Production Goes Up

The factory started with an humble annual production of 424 water meters in the year 1951-52 and reached the figure of 13,331 in the year 1955-56. The total up-to-date production ending June 1956 is 38,587 meters. The value of this is nearly Rs. 23,15,220 and represents the net saving in the foreign exchange reserve of this country. Prior to the establishment, of this factory, all the water meters were imported from outside.

With the experience that is at the command of the management of the factory now and the success its produce has met in the market, the Government has decided to expand the factory considerably. The annual production will be raised to 36,000 meters. The plans for the expansion are well in hand and are expected to be complete within a year.

Microscopes

Apart from Water Meters, the factory is also manufacturing Microscopes of the Scholar and Research Types. Several pieces have already been sold in the market. The Microscope has been appreciated by all to be of high workmanship. At present the production is ten to twelve microscopes a month and after expansion programme is completed, the factory will be capable of producing 300 microscopes a year.

Expansion Programme

It is in the active consideration of the Factory management and the Government to establish a net work of new factories engaged in the manufacture of precision instruments. The regular tratning programme is, therefore, receiving special attention to provide more employment to educated unemployed and at the same time create technicians to take up the responsibilities of new undertakings in near future. Various types of Surgical instruments and Pressure & Vacuum gauges are some of the items which are at present in the active consideration of the Government for selecting future manufacturing items.

Public Health

Where Does A Rat Go On Its Nights Out?

The rat foraging for food in the kitchen, the scullery or the barn, which disappears at the slightest sound, seeks refuge in its underground hide-out. But when there is no one to scare it and it is free to roam about on its nightly adventures, where does it go ?

The war against plague—which, as late as 1947, killed more then 50,000 people in one Indian state—gives rise to some strange tasks.

This is no question of mere academic interest. It is a matter of life-or-death significance to millions in India, for here the dread disease of bubonic plague—transmitted by fleas, to which the rat is host—still flares up periodically in murderous epidemics.

The nightly wanderings of the house rat have become vitally important to the scientists now doing plague research in rural areas of nothern India, in the state of Uttar Pradesh where as late as 1947 more than. 50,000 people died during a single servere outbreak of the disease.

This research is being carried out by the Pasteur Institute of Teheran, under the joint auspices of the U.P. Government, the Government of India, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the World Health Organization.

The people themselves (as well as the scientists) have until recently thought that the house rat was mainly responsible as the reservoir of the infection. But it seems clear that the house rat in only a link with a

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Violation of Traffic Laws In Capital

According to a Press Note issued by the Delhi Traffic Police in May last 3200 vehicles violated traffic rules in the city. Of these, 1,815 people were challaned and a fine of Rs. 20,144 was realized. During the same month eight private cars plying as taxis were detected. The owners of five of these have already been convicted and the other cases are pending for trial. About 7,000 cyclists were challanged for offences but only 985 gave correct names and addresses. The total amount of fine relized for offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, municipal by-laws, the Hackney Carried Act and the Police Act amounted to Rs. 25,684 as compared to Rs. 16,115 realized for the same month last year.

Road Accidents In Bombay

In May, 1956, the number of traffic accidents taking place in the streets of Greater Bombay was 474. Of these, 31 were fatal, while 30 resulted in serious injuries and 413 in slight injuries. Motorists were responsible for 73 of these accidents (18 fatal, 15 serious injuries) and 40 slight injuries) and the pedestrians for 401 accidents (13 fatal, 15 serious injuries and 373 slight injuries).

Prosecutions for breach of traffic regulations were launched against 3,008 drivers during May.

Madras Safety Plans

Madras Government have sanctioned an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 1 lakh to the Corporation of Madras for effecting certain improvements in the traffic arrangements in the city. These include: formation of traffic islands; re-designing the existing traffic islands; elimination of blind corners; segregation of traffic; improvement and uniformity of lighting; and provision of automatic traffic signals at the Muthuswamy Iyer Bridge.

Traffic problems of Madras city were discussed at a meeting on June 25 presided over by Mr. S. Parthasarathy Iyengar, Commissioner of Police Lt. Col. C. R. Krishnaswami made a number of suggestions for the solution of traffic problems. He pleaded for the broadening of the roundabouts at junctions of roads, removal of tins placed at such roundabouts and widening of narrow roads, for the abolition of rickshaw-pulling and for vigorous action against drivers of texis and auto-rickshaws who paid scant attention to traffic regulations. Mere slowing down of traffic, he said would not lower the accident rate.

The Police Commissioner said rickshaws were poor man's vehicles and could not be taken off the roads all at once. There was also the difficulty of finding alternative employment for the rickshaws-pullers. The Police Commissioner suggested that the Automobile Association of South India should start a school for giving the necessary training to drivers.

Air Accidents

Twenty-four accidents occured to Indian registered aircraft and four to Indian registered gliders in 1955, according to a booklet published by the Ministry of communications. Nineteen of the accidents occurred in India and the remaining outside India. Six accidents were fatal and involved the death of 17 members of the crew and 17 passengers.

(*Continued from previous page*)

12 Rollers Per Month

At present, the manufacturing programme is to produce 12 rollers per month and it is hoped that in about three years' time, 100 rollers would be manufactured per month.

Major General Shanta Shamshere, Director of Kamani Engineering Corpn. Ltd., proposed a vote of thanks to the guests, who included U. K. Trade Commissioner in Bombay and Mr. D. N. Khurody, Milk Commissioner.

No Reduction In Transport Taxes

Mr. O. V. Alagesan, Union Deputy Minister for Transport and Railways, told the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association in Bombay on June 4 that the present moment was inopportune for reduction of taxation on transport. Every source of income was necessary for Government to carry out their huge expansion schemes, he said. The Association had submitted a memerandum to the Minister, demanding, among other things, reduction of taxes on motor transport by 20%, provision of facilities for credit purchase of vehicles, grant of development rebate to buyers of commercial vehicles, and adoption of an all India inland transport policy. The present high cost of vehicle operation was due to high taxation, restricted vehicle load and lack of modern road surfaces, the memorandum said, and requested early action on them.

Rationalisation Demand

Rationalization of taxes on road transport and freedom of movement for vehicles from one State to another were some of the suggestions made by Mr. Sujan Singh, the outgoing Chairman of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association, at its 17th annual meeting in New Delhi on June 26. He was of the view that States should not hold a monopoly of road transport because, for the sake of efficiency, it was necessary to have healthy competition between State enterprise and private undertaking.

Referring to the Delhi Transport Service, he suggested that the DTS "should concentrate on rutes which it can cater for efficiently and leave the others uncovered, to be catered for by private operators."

P.E.P.S.U. Road Transport

The Northern Railway is to participate in the PEPSU State Road Transport Corporation, with a 20% contribution to the Corporation's share capital. The Ministry of Railways in a Press Note said that steps have been taken to promote greater rail-road coordination and to avoid wasteful competition between these two modes of transport. The railways are at present participating in road transport undertakings in six other States—Bombay, Saurashtra, Kutch, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa.

Underground Railway In Bombay

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tranport (B.E.S.T.) undertaking, which runs the city's transport services, has prepared a plan to construct an underground railway system in Bombay, to relieve traffic congestion on the roads. The plan, estimated to cost Rs. 22 crores, proposes a type of circular metre gauge railway of about 18 miles connecting important traffic spots in the city from Colaba in the south to Dadar in the north. The undertaking has already called for tenders from foreign consulting engineers to examine the feasibility of the plan and Suggest methods of construction. Under the Scheme, construction work is expected to take seven to eight years.

Dog's Right to Taxi-ride

A dog in Bombay can enjoy the comfort of a taxi-ride along with his master, but it will be the responsibility of the master to clean the taxi if his canine companion makes the taxi cab dirty.

This clarification is given by the Bombay Government in a Press note since it has been noticed that taxi drivers refuse to hire their taxies to passengers accompanied by dogs, due to a misunderstanding that the carrying of dogs (pet animals) in taxis is an offence.

Stating that the carrying of dogs in a taxi is not prohibited under the Motor Vehicles Act, the Press note goes on to warn that not only passengers having dogs with them should not be refused by taxi drivers, but refusal to hire a taxi to a passenger for this reason will make the taxi driver liable to prosecution under the Motor Vehicles Act. A dog, the Press note, however, says, will be considered as one "passenger".

Dieselising of Railways

The Indian railways will introduce dieselisation on certain sections in order to deal with increasing traffic.

Initially about 1,300 miles of railway are to be worked on dieselisation. Of this over 1,000 miles will be on the broad-gauge system.

The Railway Board is understood not to have favoured the idea of any large-scale dieselisation in the country in the absence of sufficient indigenous resources of oil within the country.

150 New Buses For Madras City Fleet

The administration of nationalised transport in Madras city has been transferred from the Public Works Department to the Home Department. At the first conference by the Home Secretary Mr. Lobo Prabhu in the Secretariat, on June 20, which was attended among others by the Honorary Director of City Transport, it was disclosed that 31 new buses will be added to the city's fleet in July. Ten old but repaired buses will also be put on the road. In the coming months new buses will be added to the city fleet at 30 per month and this will continue for five months.

Transport Nationalisation In Ceylon

A five-man delegation from Ceylon, led by Mr. F. De S. Jayratne, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Works, Ceylon, was on a visit to principal cities in India in June to study the transport problem and transport system in various places in India. Ceylon Government have announced their intention of nationalising transport and the team has come out to India to make a first-hand study of the nationalised transport in this country. The team included the Ceylonese Controller of Establishments, Commissioner of Motor Traffic and General Manager of Railways.

Automobile Industry

The automobile industry of India now consists of six units, two produce cars and trucks, two produce trucks alone, one produces cars and one produces jeeps. The total annual assembly capacity of all the units is 50,100 vehicles on the basis of single-shift working.

The demand for automobiles, as would be seen from the figures quoted by the Chairman of the Tariff Commission, Mr. K. R. Damle, has been steadily moving up. The following table shows the offtake of vehicles of different types in 1953, 1954, 1955 and the first quarter of 1956.

The Tariff Commission is now engaged in an enquiry into the automobile industry's demand for increased prices of vehicles on account of the rise in the cost of raw materials and components as well as in the manufacturing costs, while the small turnover, despite the recent increase in offtake of vehicles, is itself a factor which tends to swell the production cost per unit.

Offtake of Motor Vehicles Manufactured in India

Type	1953	1954	1955	1956 (first quarter)
Small cars	40	969	3443	1165
Light and medium cars ...	1947	2846	4546	1327
Big cars	526	953	2028	683
Jeeps	396	1395	2272	1107
Diesel medium truck (3 to 5 ton)	—	71	1756	872
Diesel heavy truck (above 5 ton)	159	303	684	217
Petrol light trucks	1146	558	2313	452
Petrol medium trucks ...	1523	2994	2908	781
Diesel buses	93	378	1840	780
Total ...	5830	10467	21790	7834

Bhakra-Nangal's Second Power Station

The Kotla Power House, 18 miles down-stream from the Nangal dam on the Nangal Hydel Channel, the second to be commissioned in the chain of four power stations of the Rs. 170-crore Bhakra-Nangal multi-purpose project, was inaugurated recently by the Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant. It will have two units each having a capacity of 24,000 Kw. There is provision for a third unit of the same capacity to be installed later. The installed capacity of Ganguwal Power House, the first to be commissioned (in January, 1955) is 48,000 Kw.

Housed in a building designed according to modern concept for power station structures, Kotla station is equipped with the latest generating machinery, auxiliary services and protective devices. The availability of cheap power from the multi-purpose Bhakra-Nangal Project will greatly contribute to general happiness and prosperity in the Punjab and adjacent areas.

Two Thermal Stations for Delhi

The Government of India having accepted that the power from the Bhakra-Nangal cannot possibly meet the fast growing needs of the capital, it is proposed to set up two new electricity generating plants of 20,000 kw capacity each in Delhi— one of them by early 1958— at an estimated total cost of about Rs. 2 crores, The proposal has now been forwarded to the Planning Commission for its concurrence. Even after the second instalment of 10,000 kw of power from Nangal is received at the end of July, the Delhi State Electricity Board will just be able to meet the present demand of about 57,000 kw. Offers have already been invited from a number of foreign firms for the erection of one of the power plants.

Heavy Electrical Equipment Factory

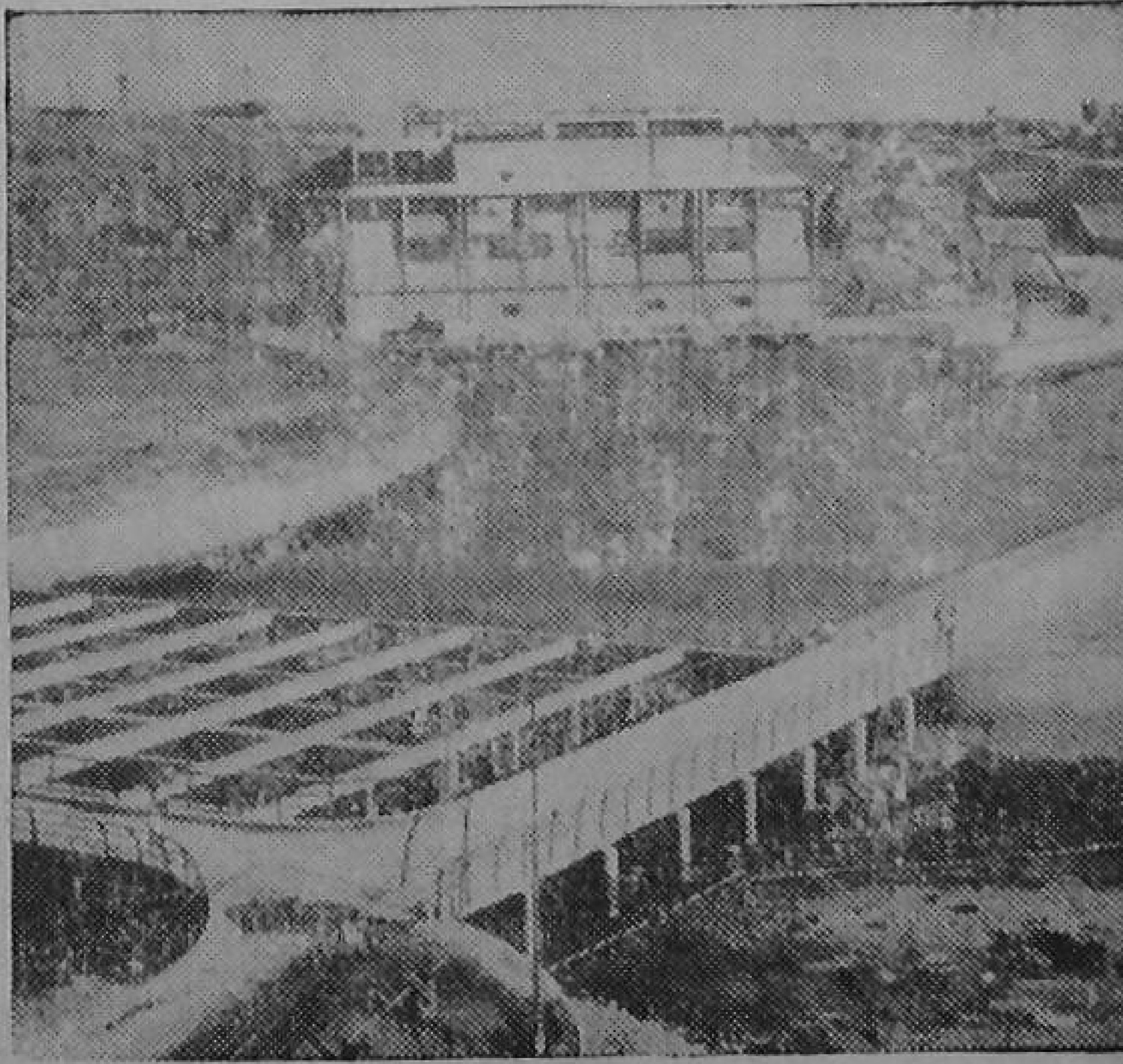
The Central Government will soon take over an area of nearly three square miles, near Bhopal town, for the location of the heavy electrical equipment factory, which is being set up in the public sector. The detailed project report is due from the technical consultants of the project, the Associated Electrical Industries Ltd. in November this year. The factory is expected to go into production in about five years' time and develop to its full capacity over a period of seven years thereafter. The range of production of the factory will include electric generators, transformers, switchgear, turbines for river valley projects and traction equipment for railways.

Under a subsidiary agreement the English Electric Co. Ltd. is to act as subsidiary consultants for the manufacture of hydraulic turbines and associated equipment.

Machkund Hydro-Electric Project

The completion of the Machkund Hydro-Electric Project will be one of Andhra's major tasks under the Second Five Year Plan. When complete, the project will generate over 1,00,000 KW of power.

The first phase is already nearing completion. A shortage of power has so far impe-



The Nangal Hydel Channel as it emerges after producing 48,000 Kw of electric energy at the newly constructed Kotla Power House.

ded the industrial development of the state but with the Machkund Project a new era opens for Andhra.

The Caltex Oil Refinery at Visakhapatnam, for instance, will need about 7,000 KVA for running the installation. This energy will be supplied by the Machkund Project and power will be carried from Muchkund to the Caltex refinery, a distance of 90 miles, in three stages.

Designed to process 675,000 tons of crude oil annually, the refinery is scheduled to come on stream early next year.

Wood Poles For Power Transmission

The Technical Sub-committee, appointed by the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Forestry has agreed that State Governments as a long-term plan should take suitable afforestation measures for the supply of full length poles to be used as telegraph poles.

According to the expert opinion, the use of wood instead of steel for transmission poles is likely to reduce capital cost by Rs. 1.5 crores and demand of steel by 45,000 tons.

For a phased programme of electric supply to 10,000 villages involving nearly 35,000 miles of transmission lines, contemplated during the Five Year Plan, 85,000 poles would be required. A correspondingly large quantity of cross-arms, bracings and pins would also be needed. Considering various difficulties, however, the Standing Committee suggested as a short-term measure the use of jointed poles as was already being done on a limited scale in Madras.

Turbines for Rihand Dam

The English Electric Co. of U. K. has received an order for the supply and erection of five water turbines and their alternators for the Rihand Dam in Mirzapur (U. P.) Valued at some 12,50,000 pounds, the order is believed to be highest of its kind placed in India with a single manufacturer.

Electric Consumption In Calcutta Goes Up

The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation during the year 1955 sold 1,242 million units, showing an increase of 142.7 million units over the sales in 1954. The ordinary domestic and commercial load at the flat rate increased from 171 million units in 1954 to 184 million units in 1955.

Overcrowding

Sir Harry H. Burn, Chairman of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, in his address to the 59th annual general meeting of the Corporation held in London, said the population of Calcutta continues to increase; the City is still in a congested state and the pressure on all available accommodation is intense. To ease the situation large blocks of flats have been built and these include several erected by the West Bengal Government to provide staff quarters. Many more buildings of this type are in course of erection and in general building continues un-abated particularly in the south-east of Calcutta and along the Diamond Harbour Road in order to meet the pressing need for accommodation and relax the pressure of the population on the ovarcrowded City area.

On the industrial side served by high tension power the rate of expansion in demand for current has shown a further upward trend. The sales for 1955 were 799 million units as against 699 million units in 1954.

Public Lighting

Public lighting shows a steady increase in consumption. The Calcutta Corporation continued with their programme to install adequate street lighting throughout the City and four new Calcutta Improvement Schemes were taken over by the Corporation during the year 1955. The Calcutta Tramways' demand for current has remained steady over the past two years with a small increase in 1955. There were no major interruptions in traffic during the past year.

Panchayat System Of Justice

Mr. Justice A.S.P. Iyer of the Madras High Court, while inaugurating the new Sub-court in Erode of June 4, said the Panchayat system of justice is most unsuited to the complex and advanced modern time where qualified men of great learning and integrity are required as judges and lawyers. He urged caution against the meaningless and misleading propaganda that "justice now administered in India is Anglo-Saxon justice." He held that justice, like truth, is one, and there can be no Indian justice and English justice. Meet the challenge boldly with an emphatic "no", he added.

He advised Indians not to fall a prey to the meaningless and misleading propaganda that the justice now administered in India was Anglo-Sexon justice and that we should revert to our indigenous system of justice. It was as absurd as reverting to the ancient and indigenous Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine, abandoning modern medicine and surgery.

The Panchayat system, he said, is most unsuited to the complex and advanced modern times, where qualified men of great learning and integrity are required as judges and lawyers. Administration of justice, he added, was the most important and difficult branch of the administration of a State and the most responsible one in a democracy.

PEPSU

Increased Land Revenue Demanded

The PEPSU conference of panchayat representatives held in Patiala on June 22 demanded that hereditary posts like village headmen be abolished and their powers conferred on local village councils. By another resolution the delegates demanded that the panchayats' share in the land revenue be increased from 10 percent to 20 percent. About 4,000 representatives of State panchayats attended the conference.

Saurashtra

Nominations Opposed

A Junagadh lawyer has filed a petition in the State High Court, Rajkot, challenging the validity of the Saurashtra District Panchayats Act of 1956, which empowers the State Government to nominate office-bearers to District Panchayats which began functioning on July 6.

The petitioner, L. H. Patel, stated in his petition that the Act denied him the opportunity to seek election to office.

The Act contravenes the provisions of Article 16 read with Article 13 and 14 of the Constitution of India and, therefore, it is illegal and "ultra vires" the Constitution, he contends.

The leftist-led Kisan Sabha had been organising public meetings in Madhya Saurashtra district to express its disapproval of the Government's action in nominating office-bearers to district panchayats.

All Villages will have Panchayats

Development Minister, Mr. Ratubhai Adani, on June 27 said that almost all villages of Saurashtra will have panchayats by the time the new State of Gujrat will come into existence.

Travancore-Cochin

Elections Postponed

Panchayat elections in Travancore-Cochin have been postponed for a year, it was officially announced on June 26.

The three-year term of 548 panchayats in the State expired in June. The first State-wide elections were held in 1953. The Government announced that the term of the present panchayat members has been extended till July 5, 1957.

Survey of Community Development Programme In India

By M. L. WILSION,
Ford Foundation Consultant in Community Development

Time seems to move very fast. It was only seven years ago at an international meeting of Food and Agriculture Organisation held in Washington, D. C. that I heard an Indian delegate at the session where 56 countries of the world reported on recent agricultural development, outline the experiment then being carried on in the United Provinces. He commented that the new Government of India felt a deep sense of responsibility to the rural people of India and that the Prime Minister and the government were anxious to initiate a programme to reach all the villages, and bring about speedy agricultural and social development. When I was in India in early January, 1952, I attended the graduation exercises of the first class of village level workers who had been training for six months at Nilokheri. Now four years later I learn that approximately one-third of all India's villages are incorporated in some 1200 Community development and National Extension Service blocks. More than 10,000 village level workers and other trainees have graduated from 44 training centres. There are about as many professional and administrative employees in extension work in India as are employed in the United States, where Federal and State sponsored extension work has been going on for 42 years.

I am deeply impressed with what has taken place in rural development in India during the first Five Year Plan. A great system for education and village improvement has been created; village level and block officers have been trained; co-operative relationships between the Centre and the State have come into existence; many new problems have been faced and great obstacles have been overcome.

New Approach: Open-Mindedness

Viewed in a broad way, a great deal of social invention and new creative thinking has gone into this movement in India. Certain aspects of its philosophy, its organisation and its approach are new and are being tried in India for the first time. If they succeed they will have a great influence on the whole world.

I am impresred not only by the scale and the magnitude of what has been and is being done now in village improvement but also by what is proposed for the next Five Year Plan. The planning and creative thought put into all aspects and details of the programme has been outstanding. An outside visitor finds that every important policy point or administrative problem that he raises has been thought about in great detail; the decisions which have been made have come about after research, fact-finding and weighing of possible alternative courses. The whole programme is carried out with an open-mindedness and a constant effort to seek the light that grows out of experience. The fact that a programme for the evaluation of the Community Programme is being carried on, under the auspices of the Planning Commission and by a research

organisation of competent workers, is unique and of very great significance.

My admiration and enthusiasm for the programme as a whole, its vastness, its organisation and its objectives is such that I can hardly express my judgment and opinions except in superlatives. In many aspects, there has been nothing approaching its scope and objectives in the history of rural improvement and adult education throughout the entire world.

Best Example Of National Planning

It seems to me there has never been a better example of a nation planning to mobilise all its resources, in the modern way, against the problem of evil of poverty, ignorance, disease and all those things which prevent a human being from living a full life in all respects, than this community programme of India so designed to bring about social change and development in village life.

The community development programme in India expresses the hopes and aspirations of the people of India. It is thoroughly Indian in its conception, its background and operation. Its roots go deep into Indian culture. I firmly believe that India has chosen wisely in boldly eastablishing the Community Development Programme as an integral part of its overall planning for national improvement and development. Taking such a point of veiw, we do not judge something that is fixed and permanent, but a growing developing idea, programme and organisation. The important point is capacity and the means to continuously evaluate present development process in the light of experience.

Since I have witnessed and participated in the development of Extension Education in my country over the past 50 years, it is very natural for me to ask what Indian villages and village people will be like after the community programme has been operating for 50 years. At first, this might seem to be somewhat of a philosophical and speculative question, but in reality the question is: "What are the goal and objectives of community programme in concrete terms?"

Different Concepts

The replies that I have had from development workers at all levels have been quite varied. Some have said: "The Indian village is very old; changes in the past have taken place very slowly and in spite of all that can be done the changes will be very slow in the future." Others have said: "First, the villages had little opportunity to grow and adjust to the modern world; and second, village people were illiterate, they have had little chance to participate in local democratic self-government, they had been taxed without representation." Others in essence have thought that the village people have had little experience in doing things for themselves and that illiteracy is so great, that things will have to be done for them before they can do things for themselves.

In contrast with such statements, a State Development Commissioner said to me: "The potentialities of the people of the village are very great. Five years ago the Government and the people outside the Government who had dreamed about a new village India were way ahead of the village people. To-day in those blocks in which the development programme has been going on for 2-3 years, and in which

it has been administered in such a way as to reach the people and to get across its meaning and significance, there has been a great awakening. The village people, in their progressive thinking and desire for better things, are ahead not only of the public administrators as a whole but the policy makers and those who would shape public opinion.

A People's Programme

As I talked with more people I thought I could detect these two different philosophies expressing themselves in both words and action. Over and over again some men connected with the block would first show me the physical improvements that have been made in the village. Others connected with the block would show me either the improvements in crop production and soil development or the things which were being done in the village for the poor and landless as well as more well-to-do cultivators. I began to make a kind of mental checklist, grouping in one column the people that I thought envisioned what I called an "Administered Government Programme" and the people I thought had real understanding of a "People's Programme," and the process by which it could be brought into being.

This problem of understanding the goals and of adjusting the individual's action and behaviour in relation to the goals has troubled me a great deal. I have said to myself over and over again: "Is the total programme moving in the direction of an administered programme or of a people's programme ?" I meditated this question many times and have come to the conclusion after weighing the factors involved that it is going to be a people's programme.

Four Factors

There are four factors that influenced me in making this decision;

First, a talk that I had with Mr.S.K. Dey, Administrator of the programme, his open-mindedness, vision, broad philosophy and his statement.

Second, there was an attitude that was reflected throughout all the development blocks of open-mindedness, of gearing the programme to the needs of the people.

Third, a main topic for discussion at the 1956 Annual Regional Seminars of Collectors, District Magistrates, Development Commissioners, Project Executive Officers, Block Development Officers and citizens was "securing people's participation in community development". The manner, the

Despite excessive heat and discomfort, villagers of Rajasthan, young and old, turned out to contribute their quota of shramdan to complete whatever village project their Panchayat had decided to take up.

throughness and the frankness in which it was discussed was most gratifying.

Programme Evaluation

Fourth, when I read the Evaluation Report on the working of the Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks issued in April, 1956 by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, I said to myself: "Any government that is so forward looking as to have a continuous evaluation process going on outside of and independent of the legislative and administrative functions is most likely to succeed in its objectives." This kind of evaluation on the one hand gives guidance to the administration itself, and, on the other, educates the general public and legislative branch of government to the problems involved and the physical day-to-day ways of dealing with them both from the stand-point of the administrator and of the village people.

I know of no other great projects of this kind in which the evaluation process is paralleling the administrative process.

Village Level Worker

There is sometimes a tendency to look on the village level worker as a chore boy who runs errands and does all sorts of things at the village level. It should be clearly recognised by all that: (1) the village level woker is an educator; (2) he must have a programme and plan for his works based on the needs of the village people; and (3) he must be regarded as a member of the block team who has as definite responsibilities as the Block Development Officer and other Block staff.

The Community Development Project and National Extension Service Block is an Indian invention for area co-ordination and administration. It fits into the Indian method of public administration and co-ordination of governmental activities. Under these conditions, the Block Development Officer is a very important man and has very significant responsibilities and duties.

Block Development Officer

The Block Development Officer is the key man of the whole development scheme. Therefore, he must be a capable administrator, who understands the mechanism and working of the structure of the government which is above him. He must be a great humanist who has sympathy, insight and understanding of the lives and aspirations of the village people. The requirements of a good Block Development Officer are very broad. Therefore, much high-grade training, both in-service and pre-service, will be required if the Block Development Officer is to have enough administrative knowledge and the insight into buman relationship, educational methods and spiritual and cultural values to equip him for leadership and development work. My feeling is that the importance of such training is not too well recognised at the present.

It would seem in some States that there needs to be a more definite liasion function between the State Development Commissioner's office and the Block. This function could best be performed by someone who had close and frequent contact with the District Commissioner's office and with the Block Development Offieer. It should be more than a narrow supervisory functio.n

Subject-Matter Officer

The subject-matter officers in the Block are also very important elements in the organisation. They need to be well trained and oriented for their job and their personality should be such that they gear into a team spirit of the Block office.

Methods of transportation and communication within the Block also present problems.

There is a wide variation in the process by which the Block programme is developed and in the relationship between the Block Officers and Village Level Workers. There is also wide variation in the manner and degree in which the village people as a whole participate in the programme of the Block. All of these are complicated matters and regardless of the present situation, I expect them to improve rapidly as a result of understanding leadership on the part of the Block Development Officers and the general development which comes through growth and in-service training.

In the present organisation of the programme, the Block Advisory Committee can be a very important institution.

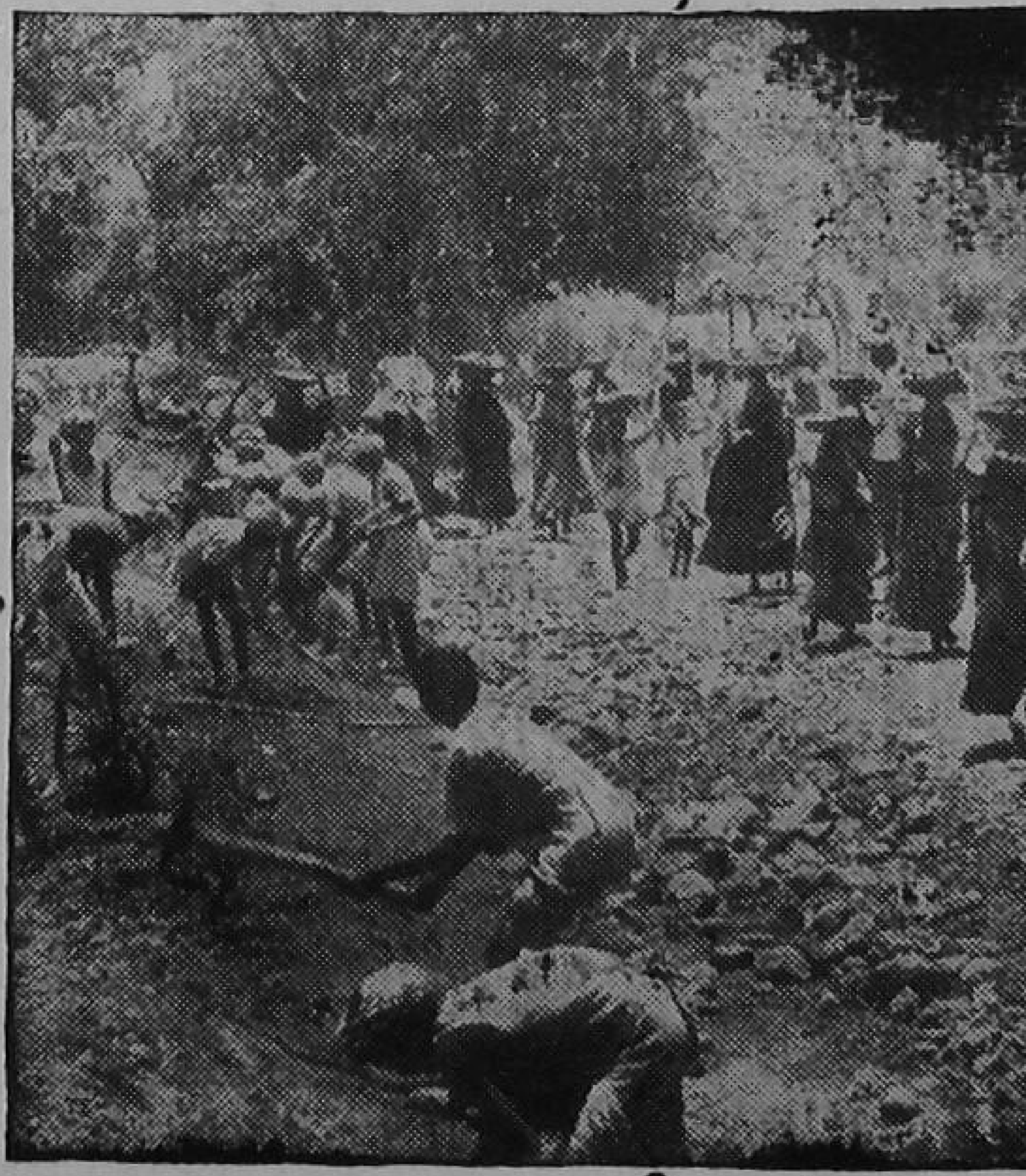
Developing People

The point of view that must be deeply ingrained in the Block Development Officer and the Block Extension staff is that primarily and fundamentally they are developing people and that almost everything they do contains an element of human development.

While the Block Extension Officers on the whole knew their subject matter pretty well and were in good communication with their Ministries they did not measure up in their understanding and appreciation of educational psychology, the learning processes and cultural changes, or in their skill of developing a programme based on this understanding. Neither did they have the team spirit or co-worker's attitude in their relationships with the Village Level Workers. Block Extension Workers should be trained and taught to ask themselves all of the time. "How do I develop a community programme in such to bring about participation and development of people? How do I, as an educator, get my recommended practices built into the daily lives and habits of the people? How do I develop in the people greater and greater responsibilities for carrying out all phases of the village programme?"

Importance of Training

The planners and policy makers are to be



Villagers of Lakarvas, 10 miles from Udaipur, widening their 7-mile long road piece. Men and women worked early mornnings and nights to complete the job.

congratulated for their wisdom and foresight in the importance that they attach to training all along the line. The efforts that are being made to evaluate critically the training and the trainees and to improve the quality and the method of the training are most encouraging but needs to be greatly intensified.

The character of the training required for village level workers, and particularly in view of the short training time available, requires teachers of very high order and skill.

As time moves on, it is safe to assume that the demands for personnel for the community programme will require more and more graduates of the agricultural and other technical colleges. For this reason the programme for establishing new departments to teach various aspects of extension training in five agricultural colleges is of great importance. The long time training programme for village improvement work in India implies this kind of college training not only in agricultural colleges where it is extremely important, but also in other fields which are involved in community development, health and sanitation, education, small industries, etc.

Women Village Level Workers

When I visited India three years ago there were no women extension workers. There are now 27 centres where women village level workers (gram sevikas) are being given training, Since domestic science and arts of home making and family life as taught in Indian colleges and universities have hitherto not been oriented to village life, this programme has a large task ahead of it to develop college teachers and trainers at the training centres, and to working out, through experience, both subject matter and extension methods of approach to village women and village life.

One of the unique aspects of the Indian programme is its vision of meeting all developmental needs of village people. This requires the integration of all the things which are involved in the conception of the human being as a whole, and the community as a single entity.

I feel that the concept of social education is of very great importance. Trying to define clearly its aim and its function is of course more difficult than to define economic and other practical functions in village development.

Housing and Sanitation

I was surprised at the number of villagers that were going to build new houses. But simply building new houses in the village is not enough. The village itself needs to be replanned so that its layout is consistent with the new housing.

I did not find as much concrete evidence in the villages of the development of co-operative marketing and purchasing activities or of co-operative credit as I had expected. I suggest that some means be found to study the experience of village co-operatives in India.

The health and sanitation Block Officers seemed to understand the problem but in many cases did not exhibit too much skill in teaching or programme planning or development processes.

Citizenship Development

The absence of local self-government in India is to be regretted. It is, however, a problem that is on the minds of the statesmen and forward looking men of India. **The development of the village panchayat as an institution of local government is important.** Likewise the development of advisory committees for the block adminis-

trators and block management is also of significance. Successful co-operatives in India fit into the development of local government. The national farmers' forum held in Delhi is notable as an expression of the idea of developing the voice of the rural people. any complete programme of rural development includes citizenship education under democracy, as the rural people grow, their duties and responsibilities as citizenry grow also.

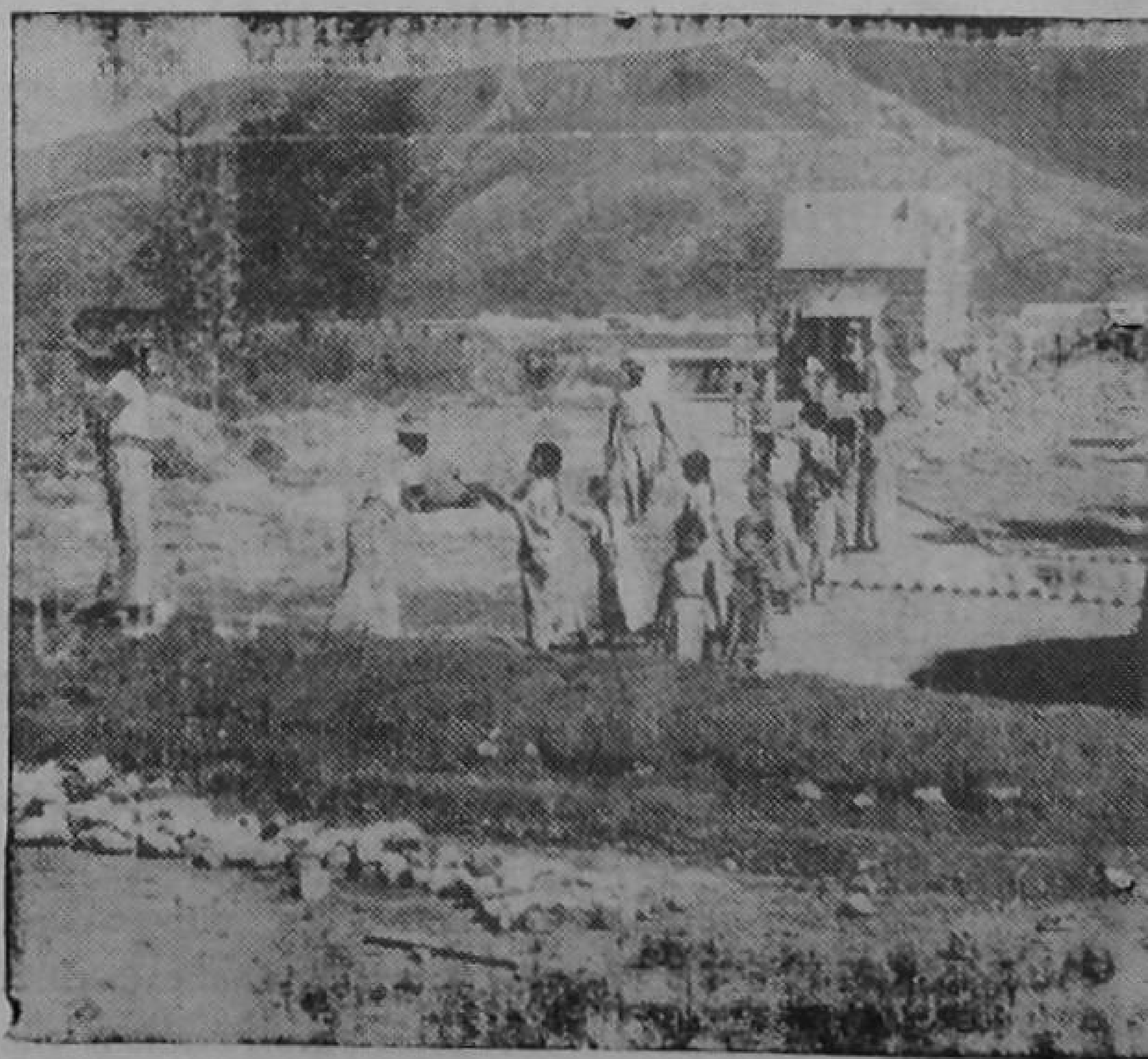
Two years ago the United States celebrated the 50th anniversary of the beginning of rural demonstration work. Fifty years ago farm people in the United States had little voice or understanding of national affairs. Their independent farm organisations were weak. There was little or no rural public programmes of sanitation and health services. There was little urge for new and better farm housing. Few of the rural children had educational opportunities beyond primary school. Few farmers' sons and daughters went to college. All this has changed.

I am deeply impressed by the work of India's Planning Commission, by the careful and constructive thought that its Vice-Chairman and other members have given to the place of community development, and by the constructive manner in which they have provided for the welfare of village cultivators in the nation's economic and social structure. The same may be said of the Community Projects Administration at the Centre, of the State Development Commissioners, and of the staff in the Blocks.

Institutions of World-Wide Significance

Two institutions in India's community development programme will have world-wide significance. The first is the concept of evaluation of the work of the community projects and national extension blocks, through the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission. I know of only one other great new public programme in the whole world that has had the benefit of the continuing evaluation processes of its plans, its activities and its development from year to year.

The other development of great significance is the plan, now under study, for the establishment of a National Centre or Institute for higher studies and training in the field of community development. My confidence in the growth and effectiveness of community development in India has been further strengthened in learning of this proposed Institute. Through seminars and workshops it will make available to the administrative officers at the centre and in the states, and to the important policy makers and programme planners wherever they may be, the best that research and science has to offer on community development.



Village women and children with N. C.C. cadets in building bunds to prevent soil erosion at Rajnagar in Coimbatore district.

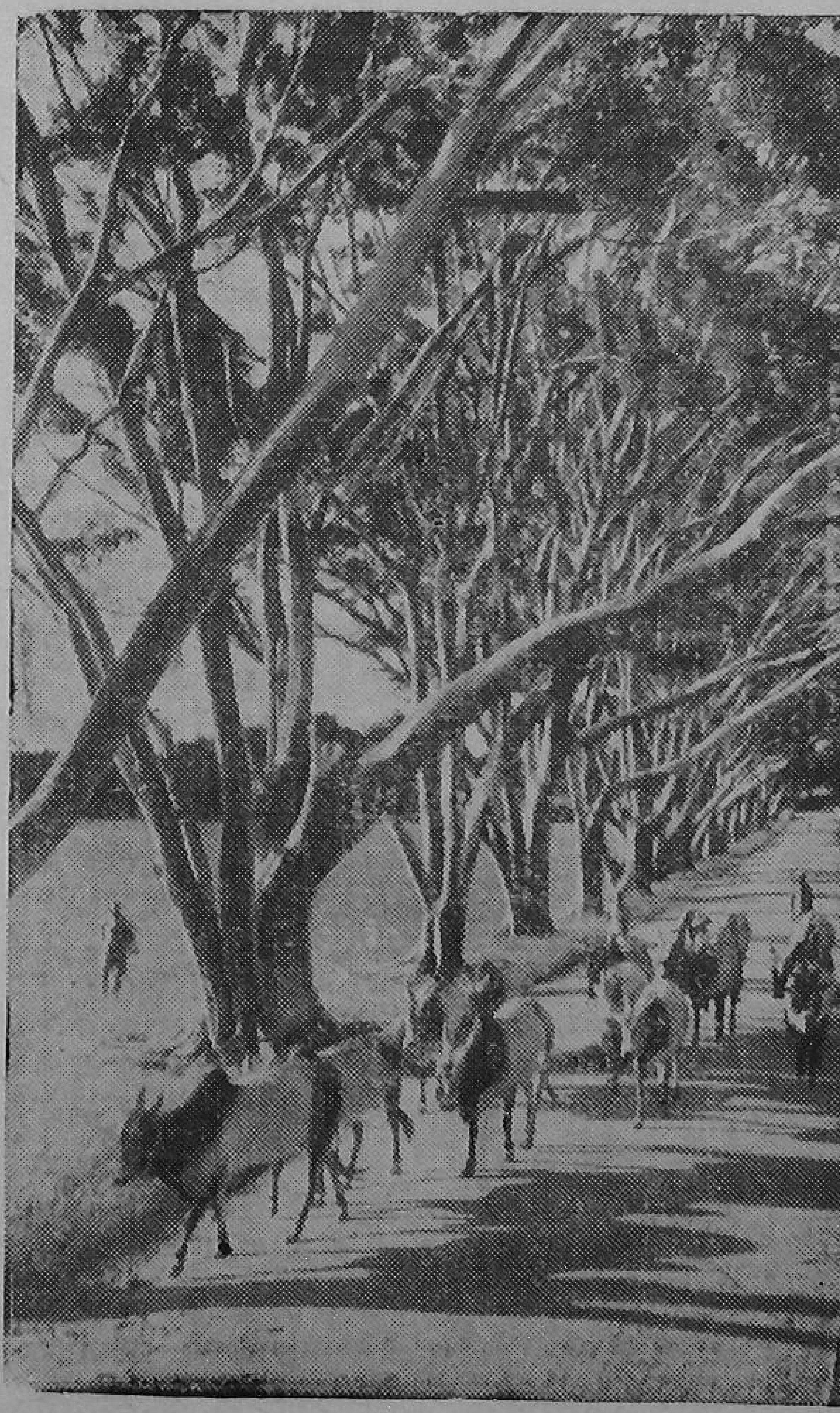
India's Seventh Vanamahotsava

"By making farm forestry popular and by inculcating a live feeling for forests and trees, Vanamahotsava may change the very face of the country", said Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, in a circular letter to the State Governments on the occasion of the 7th Vanamahotsava Day which started on July 1, 1956.

After reminding about the need for State-wide preparations from now onwards for the celebration of the 7th Vanamahotsava, he reminds that though the formal celebrations and ceremonial plantings commence on July 1, the extensive planting of trees and groves, orchards and village forests, will have to be implemented throughout the favourable season. The Minister added that everyone must continue to help build up further the enthusiasm for tree planting which has been engendered by the Vanamahotsava campaign in the last six years. While large numbers of trees are reported to have been planted and a very fair proportion of them have survived, there is little doubt that much leeway has to be made before we can reach the goal of a verdant landscape everywhere in the country and of adequacy in timber, fuel, fruit, fodder and grass.

Village Forests

The Minister then referred to the emphasis he had placed in his last letter on the need for persuading and assisting rural communities to take up the planting of village forests in all available waste lands which may not be suitable for agricultural crops. The authorities in the Ministry responsible for agricultural extension work, continues the Minister, are interesting themselves in the instruction of village level workers in forestry practies. He suggests that this training should be availed of on an extensive scale so that planting and care of trees and tree crops could become part and parcel of every effort at village improvement. By making farm forestry popular and by inculcating a live feeling for forests and trees, Vanamahotsava may change the very face of



Glorious Avenue Trees

the country. The Minister then emphasises the urgent need for the Community Projects Administration and National Extension Service Schemes to ensure adequate supplies of fuel in rural areas even as they are trying to increase their food resources in the area and also to augment much needed fodder and forage.

6-Year Record

The Minister quotes Shri K. M. Munshi's advice given in the inaugural address at the Symposium on Vanamahotsava organised in conjunction with the Indian Science Congress at its session in Agra early in January this year where he revealed that **in the first six years of Vanamahotsava roughly two hundred million trees had been planted in the country but that our ultimate target should be two thousand million trees in the next thirty years.** Shri Munshi in his address had drawn attention to the need for greater interest on the part of Community Project and National Extension Service Authorities to include Vanamahotsava in their programmes. He had also asked why Governments and local authorities had not taken up vigorously the question of roadside avenues in towns, cities and rural highways as a matter of immediate importance.

Dr. Deshmukh then quoted Prof. S. P. Agharkar, the well-known Botanist, who observed that this movement could be directed "to yield positive results" by expanding operations to the bare hills in the countryside—a point which Dr. Deshmukh had emphasised on more than half a dozen occasions—and to the different water-sheds, in addition to 'the formation of co-operative village forests for supply of fodder and fuel.'

Dr. Deshmukh then referred to the Prime Minister's recent suggestion that to make up for forests going under water in river valley projects, equivalent areas of land should be afforested.

Vanamahotsava, continued the Minisier, should, therefore, be treated not only as an integral part of any programme of 'land transformation as much as agriculture, animal husbandry and extension', but also as an inalienable factor in the philosophy of transformation.

Vanamahotsava, he said, has thus a great bearing on such questions as water conservation, soil conservation, desert control, flood control and landscape gardening apart from the direct utility of trees for fruits, wood, drugs and numerous other products.

The progress of the Vanamahotsava would be indicated by the following figures collected by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture :

In 1950, 44,315 trees were planted while 17,118 survived; in 1951, 35,821 were planted and 17,696 survived; in 1552, 42,243 were planted and 22,552 survived, while in 1953, 23,852 were planted and 9,556.25 survived.

Tree Plantation In West Bengal

The total number of trees planted in the whole of West Bengal during 1954 was 34 laks.

March Of Desert In U. P. Halted

The march of the Rajasthan desert, which has been creeping into the plains of Mathura (U. P.) at the rate of one mile per year has been checked through afforestation under the aegis of the N.E.S. Block. The area covered by the afforestation is 85 acres. The work was started in 1954.

CIVIC REPORTS FROM STATES

Andhra

More Powers For Municipal Council

The Andhra Government proposed to introduce in the next session of the State Assembly legislation providing for more powers to Municipal Councils. The revision of outmoded orders, which impeded quick disposal of matters concerning Municipal administration, was also being examined by the Local Administration Department. The question whether the old practice of having Secretaries to the Municipal Councils instead of Commissioners of Municipalties could be rastored was also being examined at Ministerial level.

Ban on Encroachments

Dr. A. B. Nageswara Rao, Minister for Local Administration, said in Kurnool on June 5 that Andhra Government had decided to ban all future encroachments in the Municipalities. In many places in Andhra, particularly in major towns like Vijayawada, a number of cases of unauthorised encroachments were proving detrimental to sanitation in towns. From what had been brought to his notice and he himself had seen, certain parties and individuals were encouraging these unauthorised encroachments. He said in some instances, the slum dwellers themselves had refused to settle down in alternative sites offered to them.

No Grant for Water Supply Schemes

The Andhra Government have informed Municipalities in the State hereafter no grant or subsidy from Government will be available to them for water supply and drainage schemes. They have also directed that hereafter all such schemes should be self-sufficient.

Dr. A.B. Nageswara Rao, said in Kurnool on June 20 that even with regard to the utilisation of the Central loan assistance for the schemes, the Government have directed that only such schemes which have been included in the Second Plan and for which investigation has been completed will be entitled. Dr. Rao explained that self-sufficiency of schemes meant that the tax collected for water supply and drainage in the concerned Municipalities should be sufficient to meet the annuity and the maintenance charges of the schemes. The councils concerned should agree to enhance their respective watar supply and drainage taxes so as to meet these charges. The Minister said legislation to this effect was likely to come up before the next session of the State Assembly.

Why Andhra Towns Are Insanitary

In their review of the administration reports of four Municipal Councils for 1954-55 the Andhra Government have pointed out to the lack of lavatories in private homes. The four Municipal Councils are Bhimavaram, Adoni, Rajahmundry and Eluru.

This lack is most pronounced in Adoni where only 2,540 out of 10,222 houses have latrines. The figures for other houses are: Bhimavaram—5,000 houses, 1,540 latrines; Rajahmundry—11,972 houses, 7,065 lavatories; and Eluru—9,280 houses, 4,598 latrines.

Another factor contributing to insanitary conditions is the absence of drainage system.

Councils Superseded

Guntur and Vijayawada Municipal Councils were superseded by the State Government for a period of one year from June 22. Government notifications said that the administration of the Guntur and Vijayawada Municipalities had been unsatisfactory owing to incompetence to perform, and persistent default in performing, the duties imposed on the Municipal Councils by law and their irresponsibility in financial and other matters. The Government was of the view that the Councils had abused their powers.

Assam

Drive Against Naga Rebels to be Intensified

As a result of the top-level conferences between civilian and military officials and the Union Home Minister Pandit Govind

Ballabh Pant at Gauhati, it was expected that the army authorities would be given more powers and a freer hand in dealing with the terrorists, as it was felt that the civilian-cum-military dual control had not facilitated an expeditions army drive against the Nagas.

Following the Home Minister's visit it was expected that the Army drive against the Naga rebels may be intensified.

The Home Minister, addressing a public meeting in Gauhati on June 29, called upon the Nagas to come forward and work in partnership with the rest of the people of India. He said he failed to understand the meaning of the slogan of an independent Naga State.

Amnesty Offer

Maj.-Gen. R. K. Kochhar, General Officer Commanding, Assam, in a statement issued in Kohima on June 9, renewed his offer of full protection to all those in the disturbed Naga Hills who would lay down their unlicensed arms at the nearest Army, Assam Rifles or poliee outposts. This offer of amnesty and protection will be kept open for a month.

Rs. 40 Lak Plan for Shillong

It is proposed to spend about Rs. 40 lakhs for the improvement of Shillyng town during the Second Five-Year Plan period. Proposals for the development of "the queen of the hill stations" were discussed at a joint meeting of the District Congress Working Committee, District Council Congress Parliamentary Party and the Shillong Congress Municipal Party in June.

Mr. A. Pariat, Vice-Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board, said that the Shillong Congress Municipal Party took up the administration of the Municipal Board on August 8 last year. During the last ten months, he confessed, the Congress Party could not make much headway, yet the achievements were not negligible compared to previous Boards. The Party strength has risen from nine to twelve, out of sixteen members of the Board, excluding the Chairman, who was the Deputy Commissioner of the district. The Board had on September 5, last year, passed a resolution requesting the Government to replace the official chairman with a non-official chairman, but no action had been taken so far.

Mr. Pariat referred to the improvements in water supply, street lighting, drainage, etc.

It was suggested that during the Second Five-Year Plan communications should receive the highest priority. Greater emphasis would be laid upon electricity and water supply in the town and efforts made to attract more tourists.

Bihar

Patna Corporation Tax Proposals

The Standing Committee of Patna Corporation has again turned down the suggestion of the State Government that the Corporation should levy a tax on professions and callings as provided in the Corporation Act. Instead, it has suggested a number of other sources of income, including a tax on telegraph and telephone poles lying within the Corporation area.

The State Government are required to give a subvention each year as the Corporation's financial resources are not adequate. The Government have, therefore, been insisting that the Corporation should augment its resources by imposing taxes for which provision exists in the Act. Owing to vehement opposition of tax-payers, however, the Corporation has been unable to carry out Government's recommendations so far.

This time the Government threatened to stop the annual subvention if the Corporation would not carry out the recommendations for levying the taxes. The Standing Committee which considered the Government's recommendations turned down the proposal for levy of tax on professions and callings, but made the following suggestions for augmenting of income :—

1. Government should give to the Corporation 50 per cent of the fees collected in Patna as registration fee of motor vehicles.
2. Government should give to the Corporation 25 percent of the collections from

Entertainment Tax realised in Patna. 3. The Chief Executive Officer has been asked to enquire into the legal position if a tax can be levied on telegraph and telephone poles. 4. Realisation of advertisement tax on sign boards, posters and hoardings should be made more strict. 5. Atleast half of the realisations as registration fees of documents in Patna should be given to the Corporation, instead of whole of it being given to the Improvement Trust. 6. Half of the Government duty on electricity consumption should be given to the Corporation. 7. Government should be moved to empower the Corporation to levy Terminal Tax. 8. A Latrine Tax should be imposed at a uniform rate of 10 percent throughout the Corporation area. 9. Proper assessment of under-assessed houses and general assessment of all the holdings and Government holding also be equitably assessed if there is no bar to it. 10. Proper steps to realise taxes from plateform and intensive drive to check plying of unlicensed rickshaws and other vehicles. 11. The Corporation may make attractive hoardings at suitable sites for letting out.

All the above proposals have been forwarded to the State Government for their consideration.

Bombay

Expenditure On Civic Addresses

The Goveanment of Bombay has laid down different limits for expenditure by local bodies on the presentation of address having regard to their financial position.

Municipality or a District Local Board, whose annual income does not exceed Rs. one lakh, can now spend Rs. 25 per address; exceeding Rs. 1 lakh but not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs Rs. 50 per address; exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs but not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs Rs. 75 per address, and exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs Rs. 100 per address. These amounts are inclusive of all expenditure on the presentation of the address, including the printing of the address, the cost of the casket and the expenditure on any reception held in connection with the presentation of the address.

These limits will apply to all addresses presented by municipalities and local boards, including those presented to Ministers or Deputy Ministers of the Union Government, Governors or any other dignitaries. However, the Collectors may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax the limits in exceptional cases.

Since 1939, local bodies have been permitted to spend up to Rs. 15 per address. More money is now allowed to be spent in view of the increase in the cost of living and the fact that a uniform limit applicable to all local bodies operates to the disadvantage of the bigger municipalities and local boards.

Problem of Dilapidated Buildings

Two women were killed when part of a four-storeyed building collapsed at Memonwada Road, Bombay, on June 21. Another woman was buried alive under the debris. Darvez Building, estimated to be over 50 years old, had long been in need of extensive repairs, and the heavy rain on June 20 appeared to have further weakned the structure. Sandwiched between two other tall structures in the crowded Memonwada area, the building housed well over 100 people, mostly in single-room tenements. The landlord, Mr. Ismail Habib Juma, who occupied parts of the upper two floors, escaped unhurt.

A reference to the house collapse was made in the Corporation's meeting on June 25, The Commissioner said that the question of this building had been before them for about a year and a half. Notices calling for repairs were first issued in November 1954. The landlord and the tenants had been brought together on various occasions with a view to seeing whether an amicable arrangement could be arrived at on the question of carrying out of the tepairs. The Municipalty had prosecuted the landlord and he was convicted for not complying with the Municipal requisition. In this particular case, the Commissioner said, the collapse could have been avoided if the tenants had taken the responsibility of repairs.

In view of the fact that there had been a similar mishap in April last, he had been discussing the question with several responsible people as to the line to be taken tn regard to dangerous and dilapidated

buildings. There were 50 or 60 buildings in the city "in repect of which demolition orders are pending for a year of 15 months" the Commissioner stated. It was the consensus of opinion among all, with whom he had discussed the question, that the Municipality should take immediate steps to deal with dilapidated buildings.

Mr. Nayak hoped that "action for pulling down dangerous portions of buildings, through departmental action" would be taken soon, and he hoped that the House will support them in this action.

Surat Municipal Loan

The Government of Bombay has accorded sanction to the raising, in the open market, of a loan of Rs. 30 lakes by the Surat Municipality for financing its water supply and drainage scheme. The loan, which carries interest at 4½ per cent., is payable in 12 years.

Government Aid to Municipalties in Backward Areas

Replying to the address of welcome by the Palenpur Municipality, the State Governor, Dr. Harakrushna Mehtab, said that the Municipalities of limited resources of revenue would get Government aid to provide civic amenities. He added that Government was anxious to provide finance to the Municipalities in backward areas first.

Presenting the civic address, the president of the Palanpur Municipality, Mr. Musamiya Saiyad, observed that instead of common rules for aid to Municipalities, local conditions should be taken into consideration.

Hawkers' Nuisance

The Bombay Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 1956, which empowers the Municipal Commissioner to remove, without notice, any article hawked without a licence or anything in or on which such article was placed or kept, having received the Governor's assent, has been published in the Government Gazette of May 5. Hitherto the position was that under section 313A, no person could hawk or expose for sale any article in any public place or street, without a licence, Under section 314 (b), power was given to the Municipal Commissioner to cause to be removed, without notice, anything deposited, etc., in streets in contravention of section 313. However, these provisions were found inadequate to deal effectively with the nuisance caused by the hawkers in Greater Bombay.

More Engineering Colleges Wanted

Bombay Corporation adopted Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel's resolution on increased facilities for technical training and resolved to send an eleven member deputation led by the Mayor Mr. Salebboy Abdul Kader, to place before the Chief Minister and Education Minister the "great hardship" experienced by many students in securing admission to engineering colleges. The civic body was of the view that accommodation in the present engineering colleges should be immediately increased and more engineering colleges should be opened as early as possible.

Miraj Municipality Superseded

Administration of the Miraj Municipality and two more village panchayats has been taken over by the Government of Bombay under the Bombay Local Authorities Administration Act, 1956. The Municipality and the village panchayats were unable to exercise the powers and perform their duties and functions as majority of the members had resigned. Local officers were appointed to administer their affairs.

President's Statue

A bust of the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad made by a German sculptor Hans A. Doring is to be installed near the Kankaria Tank in Ahmedabad. The President had given a sitting when he visited Baroda two years ago to unveil a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

Prosecution of Government Servant Under Municipal Act

A prosecution cannot be launched against a Government servant without the previous sanction of the Government even in cases involving breaches of Municipal Act, Mr. Nasrullah, Presidency Magistrate of Bombay has held in a case in which the Deputy Custodian of Evacuee Property was prosecuted by Mr. E. V. Alconde, Inspector, Bombay Municipal Water Works, on behalf of the Municipal Commissioner, for not keeping

in working condition the flush tank in a building which has been declared evacuee property. Quoting Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which says that no court shall take cognisance of an offence against a public servant in the discharge of his official duty except with the previous sanction of the State Government, Mr. Nasrullah observed that the failure of the Deputy Custodian to carry out the order of the Municipal Commissioner occurred while he was purporting to act in the discharge of his duties. "This failure", the magistrate observed, "is punishable under Section 471 of the Bombay Municipal Act, which makes such failures an offence within the meaning of Section 4 (O) of the Criminal Procedure Code. In as much as this failure of the Deputy Custodian has ocurred while he was purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty, a sanction under Section 197 of the C. P. C. is necessary before the Deputy Custodian can be prosecuted."

Delhi

Two Tier Metropolitan Administration

Mr. Gurmukh Nihal Singh, Delhi's Chief Minister, in an address to the Rotary Club of Delhi on June 28 made a spirited defence of his scheme for the future administrative set-up of Delhi against criticism, which, he said, was either based on purely political manoeuvrings without going deep into its implications or on preconceived ideas of having a centralized corporation.

Delhi, he said, both in area and resources was not suited to enjoy the full status of a State. It was also his considered opinion that in any capital, particularly of a great country as India, the Central Government must have much greater control than it had on other parts of the country.

Though his scheme of the two-tier system for Delhi was ready in February, he did not make it public till May 30, for he did not want to weaken the hands of his colleagues and other friends in their demand for a democratic set-up for Delhi State.

Explaining his scheme Mr. Nihal Singh said it was the result of a thorough study of the systems of Governments of all major matropolitan cities of the world and every suggestion that he had made in it was backed by authority. The scheme had been devised, he added, keeping in view the special developmental needs of Delhi as the capital of India. Besides its great need for expansion Delhi did not have a uniform urban population and, therefore, its administration must be both more Centralized for large-scale functions common to all the areas and more decentralized for small civic functions peculier to particular areas. It was because of this that he had called Delhi a matropolitan area and had suggested the two-tier system.

Discussing details of administration under the scheme, he said he had adopted the parliamentary system as againts the Presidential and the executive systems of administration though the Metropolitan Council because it was but proper that it should follow the same pattern as at the Centre.

The scheme envisages a two-tier system of administration for local affairs, comprising a metropolitan administration for looking after water, electricity, transport and health, appointment of a Minister or Deputy Minister in the Union Home Ministry to handle Delhi Affairs, and also an increase in Delhi's representation in the Lok Sabha from the present strength of four seats to five and in the Rajya Sabha from one to two.

Mr. Brahm Prakash, the State Development Minister and the former Chief Minister however, is opposed to the Plan. Reaffirming his faith in the retention of a democratic set up at State level as being the only solution he could think of the Minister said: "My demand is a State. I maintain that, with some changes in the Part C States Act, better arrangements in regard to the working of the local Government administration are always possible".

Several members of the Delhi Municipal Committee—from the Congress, Commuinst, Jana Sangh and other parties—have demanded that the State Chief Minister, Mr. Gurmukh Nihal Singh's two-tier metropolitan administration scheme for Delhi should be rejected by the Centre. Pointing out

that the scheme deprived municipalities of their powers and would make the State's administration more complicated, the members, in a statement, suggested that the setting up of a corporation comprising the existing municipal and notified area committees and the various statutory bodies for better civic administration.

Refugee Colonies

All local Bodies in Delhi had been asked by the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation to submit their estimates of expenditure required for completing the services and removing the defects in them in refugee colonies and markets by July 1, so that the necessary sanction may be expedited within a month after that. All services in refugee colonies were to be municipalized on July 15 irrespective of the fact whether a particular service is complete or not. This ends the long standing dispute between the Union Rehabilitation Ministry which built colonies and the local bodies which are ultimately to maintain them.

It has been decided that one bus route in each colony will be widened to 60 feet and tarred to 22 feet. Repairs to Roads will either be completed by the Union Government or the necessary amount sanctioned for them to be repaired by the local body concerned.

Where a colony is not provided with a sewerage system, sullage may be temporarily drained into storm water drains. Financial aid will be granted for keeping these storm water drains clean for two years or till the sewerage system is laid down.

Rs. 4 Crore Dairy Scheme

The implementation of Delhi State Government's Rs. 4 crore Central Dairy scheme has been postponed owing to differences of opinion between the Planning Commission and the Union Ministry of Agriculture. Originally the State Government had planned to start a central dairy farm on the Bombay model from April, 1956, beyond the Jamuna near Shahdara. The Planning Commission approved the scheme in principle but did not allocate any funds for it on the ground that Rs. 60 crores had already been allocated for such schemes in Union Agricultural Ministry's plans. The Agricultural Ministry had not agreed to provide the funds from its own allocations.

Nuisance Of Hand Carts

The Delhi Municipal Committee on June 6 referred back to the Executive and Finance Sub-Committee the new by-laws proposed to regulate the licensing of handcarts for hawking articles The proposed by-laws, it was pointed out, were meant to check the growing nuisance of handcarts, which include rehris, in the city. It is proposed to specify the area where these handcarts can be plied. In the more congested areas the the by-laws provide that the handcarts will be kept stationary so that general traffic is not disturbed.

Hyderabad

Corporation Eelections in Twin Cities

The Congress secured an absolute majority in both the Hyderabad and Secunderabad Municipal Corporations, elections, to which were held on June 26. In the 66-member Hyderabad Corporation, the Congress won 44 seats, while the Communist-led United Citizens' Committee and Independents secured 11 seats each. Most of the Independents are dissident Congressmen. The Socialist Party, the Praja-Socialist party and the Nagrik Seva Sangh, which contested 10, 9 and 3 seats, respectively, did not secure a single seat.

In the 28-member Secunderabad Corporation the party position is : Congress 17, Independent Congress 6, Praja-Socialist 2, Independents 1, Secunderabad Citizens' Front 1 and Pourjana Sevak Sangh 1.

Both the Corporations held their first meeting on July 9. The Corporation Act provides for a merger of the two Corporations if by a three-fourth majority, both bodies so decide.

For the first time all the members of the two Corporations have been elected, the system of nominating some of them having been done away with. There were 192 candidates, including 61 Congressmen, 53

members of the Communist-dominated United Citizens' Committee and 16 Independents for the 65 seat in the Hyderabad Corporation. Among the Independents were 34 Congressmen recently suspended for contesting elections against official candidates. For the 27 seats in the Secunderabad Corporation 87 candidates contested. Two Congress candidates—one in Hyderabad and the other in Secunderabad — were returned unopposed.

There are 356,000 voters in Hyderabad and 77,000 in Secunderabad.

Madhya Bharat

Civic Address For Col. Naydu

The Indore Municipality accorded a public reception to the famou cricketer, Col. C. K. Naydu, on May 29, when an address was presented to Col. C. K. Nayudu by the Finance Minister, Mr. Mishrilal Gangwal. The President of the Municipal Committee, Mr. Babulal Patodi, said. Col. Naydu's life should serve as an ideal for the young sportsmen of our country.

Col. Naydu said there was need of a stadium for Indore city and appealed to the Municipality to take steps in this direction.

Madhya Pradesh

Six Cities To House Govt. Departments

Of the total number of 39 major departments of the proposed Madhya Pradesh Government, 11 each will be allocated to Bhopal and Indore, nine to Gwalior, 3 each to Raipur and Rewa, and two to Jabalpur. In addition, the offices of the Accountant-General and the Postmaster General will be located at Gwalior with their branches at Bhopal. The new State will establish two Universities, one at Jabalpur and tne other at Ujjain. This will be in addition to the University already existing in Saugor.

Besides taking the above decisions, the Chief Ministers' conference at Sanchi held in June, reiterated the earlier decision to locate the principal seat of the High Court at Jabalpur with one branch each at Gwalior, Indore, Rewa and Raipur.

It was also decided to establish six Commissioner's Divisions and an equal number of range headquarters of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police at Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Raipur, Rewa and Bhopal.

Beautifying Jabalpur

The City Corporation of Jabalpur has launched a scheme of beautifying Jabalpur. The scheme includes the planting of trees on both sides of the main roads, establishing small and beautiful gardens and parks in various places and good playing grounds.

Mayor, Mr. B. P. Tiwari said that as the construction of the stadium at Ranital will take a long time and the scheme is costly, the Corporation has decided to construct a small stadium at the Wright Town grounds of the city.

Madras

New Corporation Commissioner

Mr. D. Balasundaram, I. A. S., Private Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been appointed Commissioner of Madras Corporation. Besides serving as Collector in several districts over a number of years, Mr. Balasundaram was for sometime Municipal Commissioner at Tiruchirapalli and also Assistant Textile Commissioner at Madurai.

Underground Marketing Centre

The Works and Finance Committees of Madras Corporation have approved a Rs. 10 lakh scheme for the construction of an underground arcade with three sub-ways and an attractive underground shopping centre in the Round Tana in Mount Road. The shops will be situated on the outer periphery of a circle, in the centte of which will be a circular lawn about 50 ft. in diameter, which will be completely exposed to the sky. Altogether 20 shops are proposed to be constructed. A six-foot wide arcade will be provided in front of the shops all round adjacent to the pedestrian walk of about ten-foot width leading to the sub-ways. A pedestrian barrier will separate the shopping crowd from the

pedestrians, thus eliminating any inconvenience to pedestrian traffic. There will be three sub-ways leading to the centre, one from hear the Elphinstone Theatre, the second from near the Ellis Road and the third from the entrance to the Government Estates at the beginning of the Walajah Road. Public conveniences are also proposed to be constructed at suitable places as the present ones will have to be demolished.

A parking space, capable of accommodating about 40 cars, will be provided above the shopping centre.

The main purpose of the scheme is to promote easy flow of vahicular traffic in view of the heavy volume and intensity of traffic at the Round Tana junction. The scheme involves alienation of a big strip of land from the compound of the Government House Estate for widening the intersection so as to allow ample space for footpaths and carriage ways, which are proposed to be widened up to 24 ft. and 42 ft. respectively. At a conference in the Secretariat on April 26, attended by the Municipal Commissioner and Engineer and the Secretary of the Government in Home Department and others, the Commissioner had asked for a grant of Rs. 7 lakhs from the State Government for the scheme. It was suggested, at the above meeting, that the Corporation should meet half of the cost.

Abolition of Cycle Tax

The Secretary of the Madras City Socialist Party has demanded the immediate abolition of cycle tax throughout the State. The Tamilnad Socialist Party is conducting a State-wide agitation in this connection. The Madras City Socialist Party took out a bicycle procession June, 17, to demand the abolition of the tax on bicycles.

Scavenging Work In Schools

The Tamilnad Anti-Touchability Conference, which was inaugurated by Mr. B. N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, has adopted a resolution requesting the State Government to include scavenging as one of the extra-curricular activities for students in secondary schools and colleges, so as to obliterate the wrong notion regarding this work.

Orissa

Chief Minister's Retirement

It is now practically certain that Mr. N. K. Chaudhuri, Chief Minister, will relinquish the leadership of the Orissa Assembly Congress Party, and his request to the Congress Parliamentary Board in this behalf may be accepted this time. Mr. Chaudhuri proposes to retire from election politics altogether, and he may not contest for election to the State Assembly at the next general elections.

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, according to some reports was expected to resign to Governorship of Bombay and return to politics in Orissa.

Master Plan For Cuttack

Mr. V. C. Mehta Town Planner for Cuttack, said on June 3 that the Master Plan for Cuttack City was nearly complete and its execution is expected to start during the Second Five Year Plan period after the necessary legislation is passed by the State Assembly.

Mr. Mehta denied that the late Mr. Kagal had prepared any plan for the development of Cuttack. The late Mr. Kagal had made only some preliminary studies and given a broad outline of the plan. The actual planning had been done by Mr. Mehta and his staff, who had been engaged on the work for more than two years and it had cost about Rs. 2 laks to prepare the Master Plan.

According to Mr. Mehta the eastern portion of the town, which has hitherto remained totally undeveloped and very sparsely populated will be the first to be fully developed and turned into a modern city and would one day become the nerve centre of the future Cuttack City.

Rs. 1,10,50,000 has been alloted for the execution of the proposed development schemes in that Master Plan during the Second Five Year Plan period, when about 500 acres of land will be developed, 5 miles of artery roads will be laid and 60 acres of slums will be cleared.

In the new Plan provision has been made for a total of 47.6 miles of new roads.

The city will have three main avenues—North, South and Central—and all the three avenues will be east-west long prallel roads which will connect the National Highway now under construction. The present busy qarter of the town will be left untuoched.

Mr. Mehta denied that he was responsible for withholding permission for new constructions in the town, which, he said, was solely the responsibility of the Municipality. Mr. Mehta, however, thought that the present building rules of the State were defective and needed change in public interest. He had already made certain recommendations in this regard.

Mr. Mehta worked as Town Planner in Nagpur, Kanpur and Saurashtra.

Punjab

Chandigarh To Remain Capital

Punjab's Chief Ministsr, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, told a deputation of Patiala Congressmen on June 13 that Chandigarh would remain the permanent capital of integrated Punjab, The Chief Minister, however, assured the deputationists that everything possible would be done to maintain the importance of Patiala and that a good number of offices would be located there.

Amritsar Municipal Committee's Term

Elections to the Amritsar Municipal Committee, whose three year's term is about to expire, may not held this year, but some time in 1957. The life of the Board is likely to be extended.

Rajasthan

Jaipur Municipal Elections

The Jaipur City Congress Committee on June 22 announced the names of its nominees for elections to Jaipur Municipal Council due to be held in July. In doing so it defied the State Congress, which had constituted a committee to select the Congress candidates. This committee had directed the City Congress to forward to it all applications for candidature received in its office. But the City Congress, which had appointed its own selection board, refused to forward the applications.

Saurashtra

Common Cadre of Civic Executives

The Minister for Local Self-Government, Mr. G. C. Oza, said in Rajkot on June 25 that the Saurashtra Government proposed to introduce a common cadre of municipal executives for the administration of local bodies in the State. This would offer municipal executives security of service and prevent them from taking part in politics.

Mr. Oza claimed that no State in India had extended as much help to local bodies as Saurashtra.

Uttar Pradesh

New Look For Lucknow

Lucknow Municipal Administration plans to give a new look to the State's capital include electrification of all the roads and lanes. At present a number of streets and lanes are provided with kerosene oil lamps.

A Rs. 10-lakh programme has been drawn up to provide utility services in the city on a bigger scale.

State Municipal Union

The Meerut Municipal Board has passed a resolution urging the State Government to form a U. P. Municipal Boards' Union as envisaged in Section 110-A of the U. P. Municipalities Act. It was stated that 90 Local Bodies in the State had supported the move.

Civic Address For Dhyan Chand

Meerut Municipal Board has decided to present a civic address to Captain Dhyan Chand, the Indian Hockey wizard, who is retiring shortly from the Army, in appreciation of his contribution to hockey.

Municipal Employees' Conference

Mr. Mahavir Tyagi, Minister for Defence Organization, addressing the municipal employees' regional conference in Dehra

Dun on June 18 said that it was these employees who served the people directly, unlike the civil servants of the Government. He wished their lot to be elevated through better pay and assurances of impartiality and justice from the authorities.

He was of the opinion that for efficient administration, it was not necessary to feed the local bodies with grants;s instead, cartain subjects should be diverted to them for taxation in order to meet their expenses.

The conference was presided over by Mr. H. D. Banerji. Mr. Jagdarshan Sewal, Chairman of the Reception Committee, said that the organization of municipal employees on a regional basis was long overdue.

No House Tax In Gorakhpur

Gorakhpur Municipal Board on June 4 decided by 14 votes to 5 that no house tax should be levied in Gorakhpur city. House tax was levied in Gorakhpur city three years ago when the Board was under supersession, but it had been declared *ultra vires* by the High Court following a writ petition filed by a local inhabitant in view of certain formalities remaining unfulfilled. The new by-laws framed by the Board proposed to impose the tax anew. A Congress member, however, moved that the Board should not impose any further taxes. Another member reminded the House that the State Government had given the Board a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs definitely on the assurance that the Board would return it through the levy of house tax.

Mussoorie Taxes Reduced

The Mussoorie City Board on June 18 decided to reduce the house and water taxes from 16 percent to 10 percent if paid within 20 days of the presentation of the bill.

New Executive Officer

Mr. Maheshwari Prasad Nigam of the Kashipur Municipal Board was appointed Executive Officer.

Moradabad Budget Estimates

The budget estimates of the Moradabad Municipal Board for 1956-57 were passed at a well-guarded meeting after meetings had to be cancelled on two consecutive days as a result of demonstrations by a large number of refugee stall-holders who closed their shops and demonstrated outside the Town Hall and even broke into it to protest against the four to five fold increase in their rent and Tehbazari rates, estimated to bring in Rs. 1,20,000 for the Board as against Rs. 70,000 previously. The estimated income from toll and terminal tax is now expected to bring in Rs. 10,25,000 as against Rs. 9.5 lakhs originally budgeted for, as it was resolved to enforce the enhanced rates in anticipation of Government sanction.

The Board also approved the enhacement of licence fees for kerosene oil dealers, petrol pumps, cattle owners and rickshaws—the last from Rs. 15 to 25 annually—and to levy a fee on advartisement and signboards etc. It also sanctioned the levy of Rs. 25 annually on legal and medical practitioners and contractors who do not pay income-tax and Rs. 100 on those who pay it, to bring in Rs. 10,000 during the current year.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, however, protested against the whittling down of his proposals regarding cuts in expenditure. The estimated surplus is now Rs. 37,000 as against Rs. 55,470 budgeted for. The expenditure of Rs. 45,000 on the extension of street lighting and of Rs. 10,000 on fitting mercury lights on the Railway Station Road and other main roads was approved.

Ropeway for Nainital

The Union Railway Minister, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, is understood to have told the Chairman of the Nainital Municipal Board, Mr. Manoharlal Shah, that the Union Government would give Rs. 1 lakh to the U. P. Government, if the latter took up the ropeway plan in Nainital. The plan, as prepared by the State Government, will cost Rs. 4 lakhs. Necessary survey in this connection has already been completed by a German engineer. According to the plan, it is proposed to connect Nainital flats with the beauty sports on hilltops, such as China Peak and Snow View, by ropeways.

Suspended for Wasting Rs. 25-13-

Mr. Justice Mehrotra of the Allahabad High Court on June 22 admitted a writ petition by Mr. Harish Chandra Agrawal, Water Works Superintendent, Mirzapur Municipal Board, who had been suspended because the Board thought that he was responsible for "wasting public money" to the extent of Rs. 25/13/-. His lordship also stayed the operation of the suspension order passed against the applicant by the Board pending an inquiry.

Home for Stray Cattle

Under the Second Five Year Plon, U.P. Government proposed to provide a home in each district for stray cattle. The Government proposed to have a Gosadan in each of the 51 districts in addition to 25 big Gosadans. Twelve of the big ones will be privately owned. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 7,50,000. It will be launched in seven towns this year.

West Bengal

Deputy Mayor Defends Water Supply

The Deputy Mayor of Calcutta, Dr. Amar Nath Mukherjee, told a Press Conference on June 13 that there was nothing wrong with the filtered water, supply of Calcutta Corporation. Filtered water he said, was regularly checked and analysed and reports thereof were placed before Standing Health and Water Supply Committees of the Corpotration every week.

Dr. Mukherjee was addressing a hurriedly called Press conference on the publication of a report alleging, among other things, that the people of Calcutta were daily taking a "nice soup of vegetables and small organisms in the name of filtered water."

Mr. Mukherjee admitted that occasional, accidental contamination in localised areas did occur but that was immediately detected and steps were taken to rectify things.

He denied that growth of algae in filtered beds was any source of contamination. He asked the Chairman of the Water Supply Standing Committee, Mr. J. L. Saha, to release to the Press the latest report of the Standing Technical Advisory Committee on the purity of water as early as possible.

Deplorable Condition of Calcutta Hospitals

The Indian Medical Association, Calcutta, on June 9 urged immediate setting up of a commission to review the working of the city's hospitals and suggest measures to remove "gross irregularities and mismanagement" existing in these hospitals. The Association said that such a commission should comprise representatives of the Government, the Calcutta Corporation, the IMA and private organisations running hospitals. It also suggested the creation of a statutory body to guide the hospitals effectively with standardisation of hospital services and reorganisation of outdoor and indoor departments. These suggestions were made on the basis of a report made out by a sub-committee which the Associahad appointed a year and a half ago to inquire into the conditions prevailing in Calcutta hospitals. The snb-committee's report said that Calcutta hospitals were under-staffed the average ration of doctor to patients in most of the teaching hospitals being 1 to 40 or 45. There was an acute shortage of nursing staff as well.

In most of the hospitals even ordinary drugs of daily use were not supplied from the out-patients department. "Not infrequently", the report contended, "emergency cases are neglected for want of properly trained personnel." The report also referred to "attempts to take advantage of free beds and other facilities by the privileged sections of the people through friends and relatives and not infrequently through influential public figures including high Government officials".

Supersesded Local Bodies

Orders of supersession, new in force in respect of about half a dozen Municipalities in West Bengal, are likely to be withdrawn by 1957. In view of the successful working of the new Bengal Municipal Act, Government do not proposed to supersede any more municipalities, unless absolutely essential, nor to extend the current orders for supersession beyond 1957. By the com-

pulsory appointment of Executive Officers, it has has been possible to in improve the administration of some of the Mnnicipalities.

Serious Drainage Situation

A meeting of the Standing Works Committee of the Calcutta Corporation on June 4 discussed the serious situation of the drainage system in Calcutta following the dislocation and waterlogging experienced on June 2. Heavy accumulation of silt in the sewers as also at outflow points was responsible for the deterioration in the drainage system. For some years past, silt deposit had been steadily choking the drainage system, and last year some Rs. 3 lakhs were allotted for silt clearance work.

Burdwan Chairman

Dr. Rudranath Ghosh, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality, resigned following the defeat of the ruling Congress Party at the budget meeting of the Municipality held on may 22.

Midnapore Executive Officer

Under Section 67 A of Bengal Municipal Act, the State Government has appointed Mr. Sudhansu Sekhar Banerjee as Executive Officer of the Midnapur Municipality.

Electric Crematorium

The electric crematorium, installed jointly by the West Bengal Government and Calcutta Corporation at a cost of Rs. 2·5 laks at Shahnagar Burning Ghat in South Calcutta, was switched on for generation of heat on June 16. The proposal of the crematorium was first mooted by the West Bengal Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, and the Corporation of Calcutta gave effect to it.

The Corporation proposes to charge Rs. 10 per cremation.

A British firm has appealed to the public authorities in India to use modern furnace crematorium in place of open funeral pyres. In a letter forwarded by the Union Health Ministry to the Local Bodies in India, the firm says that funeral pyres are "wasteful, unhygienic and disagreeable. The sites of burning ghats are also in remote places and inconvenient to mourners".

According to this letter, the cost of furnace is Rs. 65,000 and that one cycle of operation will cost about Rs. 8.

11-Point Charter of Demands

On June 23 a Joint-Committee of 13 Registered Trade Unions, representing about 27,000 employees and workers of the Corporation of Calcutta, served a 11-point memorandum on the Commissioner of Corporation, threatening a strike in the event of non-compliance with their chartered demands. The 11 demands include: increased dearness allowance, increment of basic pay, free family quarters to all or house rent, one month's pay as Puja bonus, confirmation of all temporary workers.

Corporation Paintings

The delay in the opening of National Leaders' Portrait Gallery in the 36-year old Victoria Memorial is attributed to the failure of the Calcutta Corporation to remove its valuable oil paintings which were removed ten years ago from the Town Hall and stacked in the Victoria Memorial during the emergency of the last war.

Dilapidated Buildings

Calcutta Corporation at its weekly meeting on June 8 discussed the great danger to citizens from the dilapidated buildings in the city and the imperative need for clearance of the garbage piles and supply of drinking water.

A. U. C. C. member referred to cases of recent house collapses in the city and said that by their indifference to properly deal with the dilapidated houses, the Corporation administration was playing with the lives of the people. He criticised reference to court injunctions as lame excuses and the failure of the Corporation to appoint a Chief Building Surveyor. He wanted the Corporation to set up, as suggested long ago, a Vigilance Committee to find out defects and seats of corruption in the administration of the Corporation.

Mr. Naresh Nath Mookerjee, Chairman of the Standing Finance Committee, explained that it would be wrong to suggest that the Corporation had been sleeping over the matter. Reorganisation of the Corporation

(Continued on next page)

The Month Reviewed

(*Continued from page* 4)

Vanmahotsava

Our history, our old literature and our religions all indicate that we were highly tree-conscious people.

(*Continued from previous page*)

Departments was a very big task. A special Reorganisation Committee had been at work since August, 1953. In 1955 the Committee had submitted a report regarding the Building Department, recommending that the post of Chief Building Surveyor was not necessary.

Referring to a report in newspapers on dilapidated houses in Calcutta, Mr. Mookerjee said it had been based on incorrect information and it had been wrong that the Corporation had been sleeping over the issue.

A Congress member complained that though the Corporation had borrowed the services of 60 more lorries, the conservancy service had not been improved.

Efficiency Experts Appointment

The Corporation confirmed the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee for appointing Messrs Ibcon Limited, a firm of efficiency consultants, to draw up a scheme of reorganisation of the Collection Department, and the Departments of Accounts, Treasury and Law and the Assessment Department.

During the last few hundred years, however, this consciousness almost disappeared. There are many indications to show that, such as naked hill-sides, frequencies of seasonal floods, formation of deep ravines along the banks of several rivers—Jamuna, Chambal and Narbada to name a few—and the advance of Rajasthan desert towards the Gangetic plains along a front of over 100 miies.

Along the national highways too —there are glorious exceptions such as the tree-lined Mysore highway—it is painful to see huge trees planted forty to fifty years back dead or dying because of the vandalism of goat-herds wanting to feed their flocks of goats or people looking for firewood.

However, through the annual Vana Mahotsavas (started in 1950) and the concerted efforts of States and the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, once again tree consciousness and love of forests is being developed. More and more people are realising that the climate, the trees, the land, its protection from visitations of floods, and its fertility and those who live on it are a single and inseparable organism.

Over Rs. 24 crores will be spent under the Second Five-Year Plan for the development of the country's forest wealth. This will lead to afforestation of six lakh acres and development of new plantations over an area of three lakh acres.

(*Concluded on page* 84)

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